

IMPLEMENTATION

Mabel Park State High School is committed to reducing the distraction of mobile devices to provide optimal learning environments for all students. In order to maximise learning opportunities for all students' mobile phones are to be switched off and placed out of sight (e.g. main compartment of school bag, not in a mesh or side pocket of bag) or (clothing pocket, where it cannot be seen) or locker from the time 8:35AM to 2.35PM. The 'Away for the Day' mobile phone policy at Mabel Park State High School is designed to foster a sense of belonging and community among students, while promoting high expectations, face-to-face interactions, and nurturing the health and wellbeing of students. This policy is designed to strike a balance between the benefits of technology and the need for focused, face-to-face engagement in our school community. This policy is in line with the Queensland government mandate and the recommendations of Ms Cheryl Vardon AO, former Queensland Family and Children's Commissioner.

The intention of a Mobile phone Policy is to provide a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment by:

- a. Optimal Learning Environments: 'Away for the Day' supports our school's commitment to maintaining optimal learning and teaching environments.
- b. Face-to-Face Interactions: By limiting mobile phone use, we encourage increased face-to-face social interactions between students.
- c. Physical Activity: The policy aims to promote the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity.
- d. Digital World Impact: 'Away for the Day' reduces the potential negative impacts of the digital world resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use.

EXPECTATIONS

If a student decides to bring their mobile phone to school it is their responsibility to look after and keep secure.

Switch Off and Away:

From the beginning of Term 1 2024, all students are required to keep their mobile phones switched off and 'Away for the Day' placed in their bag, their pocket where it cannot be seen or locker for the entire day. Phones need to be away once the announcement is made.

Wearable Devices:

Wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can be worn to school, but notifications must be switched off during school hours to prevent sending or receiving calls, messages, or other notifications.

Communication Methods:

Parents are encouraged to use the school's preferred communication method, such as phoning the school office, to contact their child during the day. For students who wish to contact employers during the school day or vice versa, the school is willing to generate an official letter upon request indicating that students will not be contactable except through the front office.

Support at Home:

Parents/Caregivers play a crucial role in supporting the 'Away for the Day' approach by establishing routines at home to help their child balance device use and screen time.

School Procedures:

1. Mobile phones are to be switched off and placed in their bags, pockets or lockers upon the announcement. 'School Grounds' extends to school excursions, incursions, sporting events and other events at the school or off site where an approved activity takes place, unless otherwise advised by the supervising staff member. This advice will be on the event permission form.
2. Parents / caregivers of students who require access to their mobile phone throughout the school day for medical reasons will be required to apply for an exemption through Principal.
3. International Students may access their phone to act as a translation device during the day.
4. Students are able to access their phones to conduct mobile payments at the tuckshop register or office EFTPOS machine only. **No phones in the line for the tuckshop.**
5. Headphones, earbuds or other connected devices (such as watches or speakers) cannot be used while at school.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Daily Process:

As students arrive at school, they will:

1. Turn their mobile phone off.
2. Place mobile phones out of sight in their bag, a pocket or locker for the entire day.

Parent / Caregiver Expectations

1. Contact the school office to pass on a message to their children in the event of an emergency
2. Work collaboratively with the school to reinforce the mobile phone policy with their children.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Consequences for breaches of the technology violation (Mobile Phone and accessories e.g. earphones, ear buds, headphones)

The following may occur if a student is not appropriately following the 'Away for the Day' rule:

1st Infringement:

- Student to hand mobile phone to Student Engagement Hub.
- Teacher to contact home about student's behaviour in class
- Parent will be contacted via text message by Student Engagement Hub about phone being stored in S.E.H.
- Students can collect mobile phone at the end of the day.
- Mobile Phone Infringement #1 documented on One School, categorised as 'technology violation' (Reporting Teacher).

Main Behaviour*	Secondary Behaviours* (Optional)	Strategies	Motivation for Behaviour	Refere
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology violation	<input type="checkbox"/> Abusive language	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate non-verbal response		
<input type="checkbox"/> Truancy (out of class)	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic misconduct	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of seating arrangements		
<input type="checkbox"/> Truancy (out of school)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bomb Threat/Fire Alarm	<input type="checkbox"/> Chill out room		
<input type="checkbox"/> Use/possession of contrabands	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Check or teacher's consequence		
<input type="checkbox"/> Use/possession of weapons	<input type="checkbox"/> Defiance	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolation in room		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disruption	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the appropriate authority		

2nd Infringement:

- Student to hand mobile phone to Student Engagement Hub.
- Teacher to contact home about student's behaviour in class
- If in the classroom: a referral will be sent to a Head of Department to confiscate the item and student will be issued with a consequence by Subject Head of Department, which could include withdrawal from the lesson, reminder of expectations, detention, restorative conversation with staff member
- If outside of the class hours, a referral will be sent to the student's SEH Year Level Head of Department for confiscation and student will be issued with a consequence, which could include withdrawal from the lesson, reminder of expectations, detention, restorative conversation with staff member by the relevant Student Engagement Year Level HOD.
- Parent will be contacted by Curriculum HoD about requirement to follow-up
- Parent will be contacted via text message by Student Engagement Hub about phone being stored in S.E.H and advised that next confiscation parent will be required to collect item
- Mobile Phone Infringement #2 documented on One School by reporting teacher, categorised as 'technology violation' unless the student has refused to hand in phone, then will be recorded as 'Defiance' (Reporting Teacher).

3rd Infringement:

- Student to hand mobile phone to Student Engagement Hub.
- A referral will be sent to Student Engagement Year Level HOD.
- Parent will be contacted via phone call and parent will be required to collect student mobile phone from Secondary Administration.
- Mobile Phone Infringement #3 documented on One School by reporting teacher, categorised as 'technology violation'.

After the 3rd Infringement:

- Student may be issued with further consequences such as a short-term disciplinary action. **Failure to hand over phones**

Any students that refuse to hand over their mobile phone will be referred to the relevant Student Engagement HOD.

Inappropriate behaviour outside of school hours

In accordance to the Mabel Park SHS Student Code of Conduct, students may receive disciplinary consequences for bullying or cyber-bullying or other inappropriate online behaviour that occurs out of school hours, and affects the good order and management of the school. The Mabel Park State High School community is very proud of its high expectations and we encourage parents/carers to support the school by upholding our Mobile Phone Policy directed by the Queensland Government.

EXEMPTIONS

Consideration of individual circumstances will be given to students who require temporary or ongoing exemptions for the use of mobile phones. Students with an approved exemption must only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, approved purpose. Students wishing to apply for individual exemptions must apply directly to the Principal. Principals will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, principals may seek additional information to support the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

For students

- Be respectful and follow school rules and procedures and the decisions made by staff, knowing that other schools may have different procedures and rules.
- Be responsible by collaborating respectfully with peers, school staff and the school community and behave in the ways described in the Student Code for Students.
- Represent our learning environment, should a student need to make a call to parents or guardians during the school day, they must attend the Administration Building during break times to request a staff member make the phone call.

For parents and carers

- Represent our community by continuing to educate our children and modelling the behaviour that is safe, responsible and respectful use of digital devices and online services.
- Respect the implementation of this policy, including its approach to resolving issues.
- Communicate with school staff and the school community respectfully and collaboratively.
- Switch off or put their digital devices on silent when at official school functions, during meetings and when assisting in the classroom.
- Provide digital devices that meet school specifications where a school is participating in a bring your own device program and complete any related paperwork.
- Respect our learning environment - During school hours, parents and carers are expected to only contact their children via the school administration office. If you need to attend the school to collect your student, we will send for them to meet you at the school administration office. Parents and carers can access this policy on the school website or in hard copy form at the school administration office.

FUTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the following websites:

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/98137>

<https://education.qld.gov.au/parents-and-carers/school-information/life-at-school/mobile-phones>

Complaints

If a student, parent or career has a complaint under this procedure, they should first follow the school's complaint process. If the issue cannot be resolved, please refer to the Department's guide for students/ parents/ carers about making a complaint about our schools.