



Beerwah State High School

2024 Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy as at 28 November 2023

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Rationale

The Queensland Government and Beerwah SHS are committed to reducing the distraction of mobile phones and other devices to provide optimal learning environments for all state school students. **From the first day of Term 1 2024 MONDAY 22ND January**, student mobile phones and wearable devices will need to be 'away for the day' anywhere on school grounds (inside the fences/perimeter) at any time during the day, including before school, after school and during break times. This includes smart watches and all other wearable devices (including iPads, iPods and other branded tablets not on our BYOD System), as well as their associated listening accessories – such as, but not limited to, headphones, ear pods and ear buds. This policy also extends to all school events, excursions and camps. The reason is to provide students with:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use or distractions.
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.

RESPECT – the use of mobile phones and wearable devices for communications in classrooms and other assemblies/parades is disrespectful to the learning of others.

SAFETY – the use of mobile phones and wearable devices for recording or photographing students and staff is not acceptable and can compromise an individual's safety as it is a breach of personal privacy. Uploading this to social media is a serious breach of privacy. The use of mobile phones and wearable devices to harass, menace or offend others (cyberbullying) is an offence.

RESPONSIBILITY – students are responsible for the safety of their own property. They should not lend a mobile phone or wearable device to anyone else. If a student brings a phone or device to school, it is their responsibility.

Expectations of Parents/Carers

In accordance with the policy, parents and carers are asked to:

- Speak to children prior to the start of Day 1 2024 to ensure students are aware of the policy and consequences.
- Send email to their children for communications or contact the office for urgent/emergent communication.
- Understand that the school takes no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to mobile phones or wearable devices.
- Work collaboratively with the school and help implement the policy.
- Collect the phone or device if required and not expect that the phone or device will be returned to the student as per policy.
- Submit applications for exemptions prior to the commencement of the school year. (see page 8)

More information: <https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/file/7e7e467f-3ee6-4ecb-9942-4145f4e239cd/1/index.html>

Expectations of Students

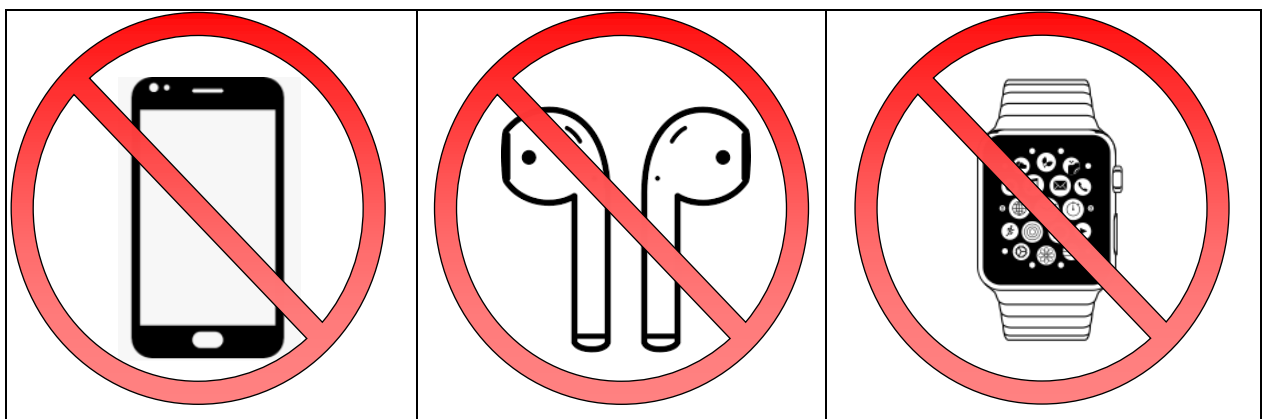
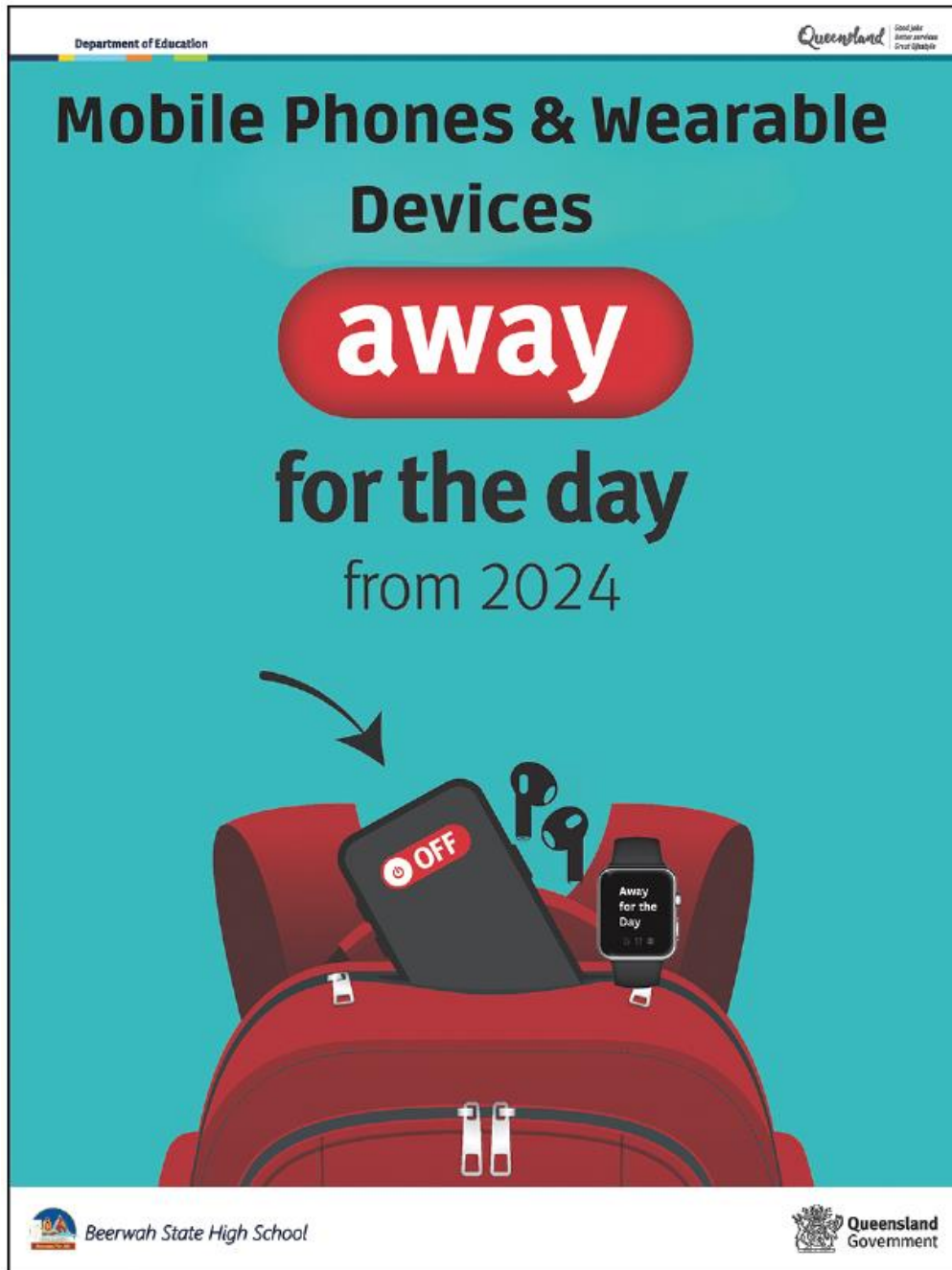
- Mobile phones and wearable devices are to be **switched off, out of sight and away for the day from DAY 1 Monday 22 January 2024**. These devices must not be visible at any stage of the day anywhere or at any time inside the school fence or while on school grounds. They must be in schoolbags. They must not be in hands or in the case of earphones, in students' ears. To avoid the temptation and to break bad habits, mobile phones are **not to be in students' pockets** and all devices must be located out of easy reach.
- Students take full responsibility for any mobile phone or wearable device brought to school. The school or staff will not be responsible for loss, theft or damage. Students who bring devices to school do so at their own risk. All students are advised to have security apps in place to track devices. Some lockers are available for students.
- Students will be permitted to contact parents or carers immediately before or after school hours, but not while on school grounds.
- Exemptions will be available for exceptional circumstances, including reasons related to disability, health and wellbeing that are supported by verified medical evidence. These exemptions will be approved by the Principal and be part of a support provision.
- Students will be required to use a card/cash to pay for purchases at the canteen. Phones are not to be used for purchases.
- Regular and random checks (known as 'sweeps') will be organised by staff to check student compliance with policy.
- If students are given a direction due to non-compliance they must uphold the values of respect, responsibility and safety at all times.
- Students will be on time to classes and will not be permitted to leave school to use their mobile phones or wearable devices.
- Students will not be permitted to leave class with their mobile phones or wearable devices when given permission to use the amenities.

Expectations of Staff

- Teaching staff will plan and implement curriculum and pedagogy that includes digital learning and teaching using only BYO devices. Teachers will not allow the use of mobile phones, earphones or smart watches.
- Head of Year and Deputy Principal staff will consistently implement the policy and consequences.
- Principal will approve exemptions and will quality assure the implementation and consistent application of the policy.
- Head of Year to ensure support provision and any exemptions are accurately recorded in One School and Daymap.
- A0 Staff to collect and store devices securely, record and refer to HOY/DP in One School and notify parents using Daymap.
- All staff to follow the policy consistently during classes, lunchtimes, on school grounds or during excursions, events or camps.
- Any member of staff, including all support staff may provide a direction to a student to follow the policy.

Signage

The following signage will be used to communicate the message to students and community.

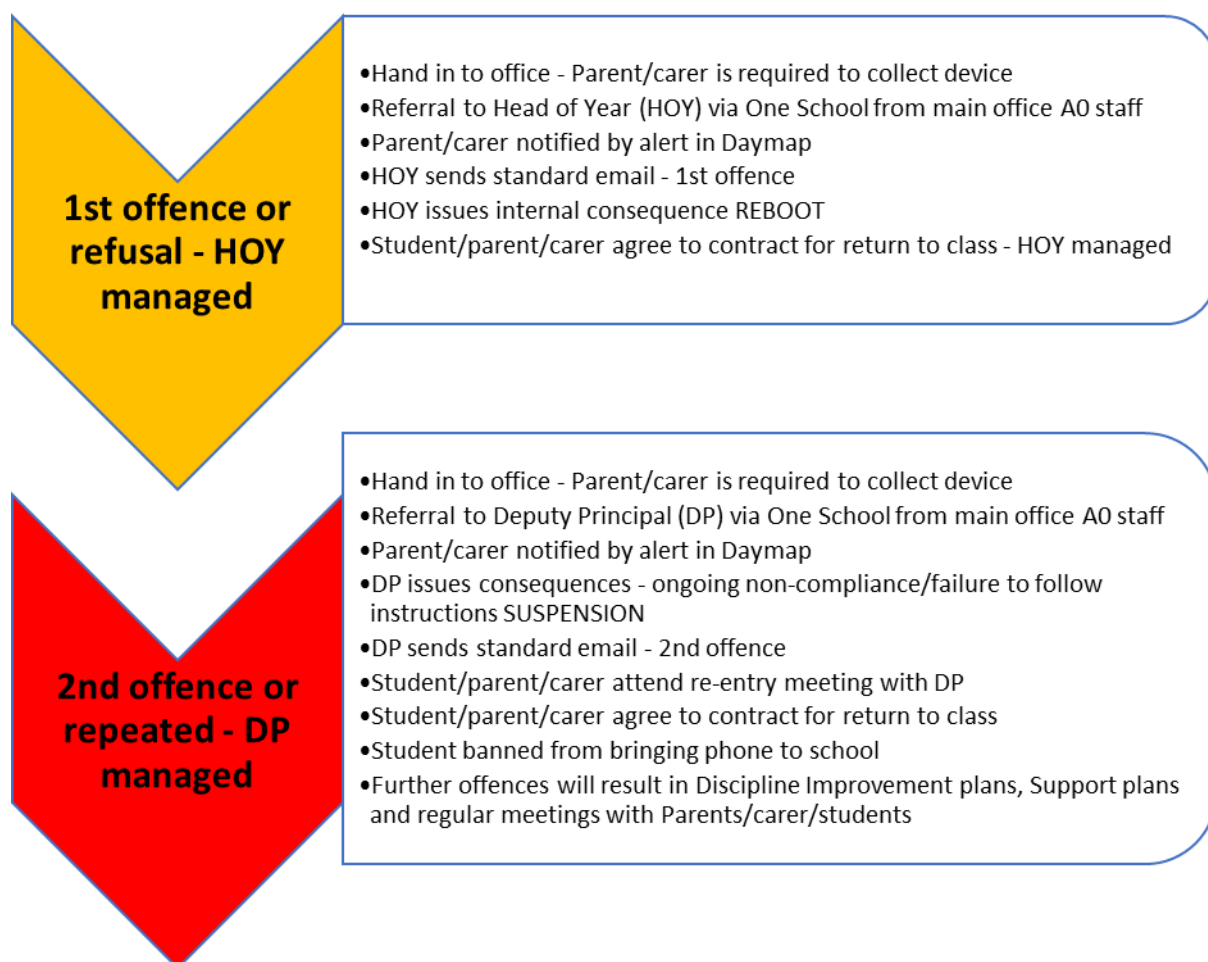


Consequences for non-compliance with Mobile Phones and Wearable Devices Policy

If requested by any staff member, students will **immediately** move to main office to surrender their device.

- The device will be logged in Daymap, a slip will be issued to the student and the device will be securely stored. Consequences will be applied according to the school's Student Code of Conduct as identified below.
- If students are deceitful in their actions (for example, handing in a secondary/backup device), this will be considered a refusal to follow instructions.
- If students react to instructions from staff members in a manner which is not aligned with our school's values, then this creates a secondary behaviour which will result in further consequences.

TWO LEVELS OF CONSEQUENCE (Parent/carer to collect from 1st offence)



Letter to Parents / Carers from Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see attached the Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices policy for 2024 that will come into effect from Day 1, Term 1 in 2024. For Years 7, 11 & 12 students this is Monday 22 January and for the remaining year levels this is Tuesday 23 January.

Please read carefully as there are expectations for parents/carers to support the school with the implementation of this policy which includes collection of a phone or device if confiscated.

After a recent staff vote, and with the support of the P & C, we will be consistently applying the policy with clear expectations and consequences including confiscation of phones, parents/carers to collect devices and other consequences to be applied as per our code of conduct, which may include days in REBOOT or external suspensions. At this stage we will NOT be implementing POUCHES. After Term 1 we will review our implementation of the new policy and further decisions may be made after evaluating our progress.

Please also see attached an application for an exemption to this policy based on verified medical grounds. We appreciate that some students have sensory issues and may require noise cancelling headphones, have a medical condition which requires monitoring via an app on a mobile phone or have other learning or language difficulties. Of course we will support these students, however, we want to ensure these exemptions are accurately recorded in our system so that our staff are aware and issues don't arise. We expect that there will be very few exemptions and students use will be strictly managed as outlined and agreed in a support plan.

The students of Beerwah SHS demonstrate respect, responsibility and safety and, as such, I have high expectations that both students and their parents/carers will support the implementation of this policy in order to improve outcomes for our students. We are making this change clear to students and I need to ensure you are also clear about our expectations.

Minister's statement around Mobile Phones- Away for the Day can be viewed here -

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

More information: <https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/file/7e7e467f-3ee6-4ecb-9942-4145f4e239cd/1/index.html>

Please contact the office or the Principal directly if you have any concerns.

Regards

Lyn Thomas

Principal

Parent / Carer email – 1st offence

Subject line: **Beerwah SHS – 1st offence Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy**

Dear Parent or Carer

You are receiving this email as your child is receiving a consequence for non-compliance with the Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices policy 2024.

- This incident has been recorded as a 1st offence and consequences are being managed by the Head of Year and will include confiscation of device, internal suspension in REBOOT, notification to parent/carer and a record in One School.
- All devices confiscated will be safely stored by the office and will need to be collected by a parent/carer. The device will not be returned to the student as per our policy. We ask that all parents/carers talk to their children about this policy and we ask for your support in this area. Other consequences will also be issued as per our policy and student code of conduct.

If you have any queries, please refer to your child's Head of Year, Deputy Principal or the Principal.

Beerwah SHS School Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy can be found on the school's website.

www.beerwahshs.eq.edu.au

More information: <https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/file/7e7e467f-3ee6-4ecb-9942-4145f4e239cd/1/index.html>

Regards

Lyn Thomas

Principal

Parent / Carer email – 2nd offence

Subject line: **Beerwah SHS – 2nd offence Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy**

Dear Parent or Carer

You are receiving this email as your child is receiving a consequence for non-compliance with the Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices policy 2024.

- This incident has been recorded as a 2nd offence and consequences are being managed by the Deputy Principal and will include confiscation of device, external suspension, notification to parent/carer and a record in One School.
- All devices confiscated will be safely stored by the office and will need to be collected by a parent/carer. The device will not be returned to the student as per our policy. We ask that all parents/carers talk to their children about this policy and we ask for your support in this area. Other consequences will also be issued as per our policy and student code of conduct.
- In this instance, parents will be required to attend a return from suspension meeting with Deputy Principal.

If you have any queries, please refer to your child's Head of Year, Deputy Principal or the Principal.

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More information: <https://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/file/7e7e467f-3ee6-4ecb-9942-4145f4e239cd/1/index.html>

Regards

Lyn Thomas

Principal

Beerwah SHS - Application for Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Exemption

Step 1: Parent / carer to complete and submit to main office by email admin@beerwahshs.eq.edu.au or in person by Friday December 8th 2023 or by Monday 15th January 2024. For all new enrolments, this application will be completed at the enrolment stage.		
Name of student:		Date:
Parent / carer name:		Year:
Parent / carer contact details:	Preferred email: Preferred mobile:	
Reason for exemption:		
Outline the medical or other reasons to support this application:		
Medical exemption/information/evidence attached <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>Approvals will not be granted without relevant supporting medical evidence such as a letter or a medical certificate.</i>		
Student signature:		Date:
Parent/carers signature:		Date:
Step 2: Principal to approve		
Principal Exemption Approval: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>If not approved, Principal to communicate with Parent/carers to discuss or seek further information.</i>		
Details:		
Name:	Signature:	Date:

OFFICE USE ONLY

- A0 office to notify HOY and DP of approval
- HOY to create support provision in One School
- A0 office to create exemption card created and distribute to student
- A0 office to record note/exemption in Daymap
- A0 office to notify parent/carers and contact recorded in One School

Appendix – Research Links

How smart is it to allow students to use mobile phones at school?

<https://theconversation.com/how-smart-is-it-to-allow-students-to-use-mobile-phones-at-school-40621>

Smartphones and Cognition: A Review of Research Exploring the Links between Mobile Technology Habits and Cognitive Functioning

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5403814/>

The Mere Presence of Your Smartphone Reduces Brain Power

<https://news.utexas.edu/2017/06/26/the-mere-presence-of-your-smartphone-reduces-brain-power/>

Impact of mobile digital devices in schools

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/about-us/educational-data/cese/2018-impact-of-mobile-digital-devices-in-schools.pdf>

Dopamine, Smartphones & You:

<http://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2018/dopamine-smartphones-battle-time/>

The Social Dilemma is a Netflix documentary-drama hybrid that examines the many ways social media and social networking companies have manipulated human psychology to rewire the human brain and what it means for society in general. One of the most striking sections of the documentary is the one that touches on the vulnerability of teenagers who use platforms like Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and multiple others every single day and have been moulded by social media's influences. This section of the film is highlighted by statistics on depression, anxiety, and even suicide rates of teenagers that correlate with the rise of social media.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y_KiBxKePI&feature=youtu.be

ABCs (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) response to this documentary https://youtu.be/9y_KiBxKeP