

Grovely State School

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Mobile Phone Policy - *Away for the Day*

From Term 1 2024, in accordance with Departmental policy, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours. Notifications on wearable devices, such as smartwatches, must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

This document also applies to student attendance at school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, unless otherwise determined by the school principal.

Overview

Queensland state schools are committed to reducing the distraction of mobile phones and wearable devices to provide optimal learning environments for all students. 'Away for the day' aims to:

- reduce distractions in the classroom
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.

What is a mobile phone?

- For the purpose of this document, mobile phones and wearable devices include mobile phones, smartwatches, handheld devices and other emerging technologies which have the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet.
- This document does not apply school-owned devices, such as iPads, tablets or laptops, that are approved for educational. However, the messaging capability must be switched off in accordance with the school's ICT policy.
- Any device which can be used to phone or message a third-party including parents. For example, mobile phones, watches etc.

Expectations of students bringing mobile phones/devices to school:

- Mobile phones/devices are brought to school at the student's own risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage of the phone.
- Students who choose to bring to school mobile phones or any device which can be used as a phone or to message a third party, must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours.
- Where students choose to bring a mobile device to school, they must store it at the office for the day as per current school policy.
- Upon arrival at school, students will be expected to bring their mobile device to the office for safe storage during the school day. Before departing at the end of the school day, students can collect their device from the office. The mobile device can then be used once the student is off school grounds.
- All messages for students need to be directed through the office.

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The mobile phone policy does not apply for activities outside school hours:

- out-of-school-hours events
- travelling to and from school

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy may be applied if certain conditions are met. Exceptions can only be granted by the principal, and must be documented.

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone/device for the purpose for which it was granted.

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Parents and Carers

Away for the Day – Frequently asked questions

When does 'away for the day' begin?

From Term 1 2024, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours.

Wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can be worn however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

Why are students being asked to put their phone away for the day?

This approach is being implemented in all Queensland state schools to help:

- reduce distractions in the classroom
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.

Can my child take their phone with them when travelling to and from school?

Yes, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone or wearable device to school. Students will be able to use their phone outside of school hours to support safe travel, and to make contact with parents and friends.

Can my child still bring wearable devices to school?

Wearable devices such as smart watches can be worn, however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

My child's phone does not connect to the internet, will they be allowed to use their phone?

No. Any phone that has the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet must be switched off and away for the day.

My child uses their phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition. Can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions will be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes.

Please email principal@grovelyss.eq.edu.au regarding processes for requesting an exemption from the Principal.

How will I contact my child at school in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, you will still be able to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office.

How will my child contact me while they are at school?

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If your child becomes unwell or experiences an issue during the school day, it is important that they report to a staff member in the first instance. Staff will follow appropriate school processes and make contact with parents and carers.

In the event of an emergency at school, the school will follow their Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, which includes processes for communicating with parents and carers.

You will still be able to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office on 33546333 or emailing admin@grovelyss.eq.edu.au.

Can my child use their phone while they are on excursions?

Mobile phones and wearable devices are not to be used during school activities such as representative sport, camps and excursions, unless an exception is made by the principal.

If this is the case, information will be included in the excursion permission form.

Where will my child store their phone during the day?

Where students choose to bring a mobile device to school, they must store it at the office for the day.

Upon arrival at school, students will be expected to bring their mobile device to the office for safe storage during the school day. Before departing at the end of the school day, students can collect their device from the office. The mobile device can then be used once the student is off school grounds.

Who is responsible for my child's phone during the day?

If your child chooses to bring a phone to school, they will be responsible for following this procedure.

[Student Code of Conduct](#) detailing the use of mobile phones and other devices by learners.

[More information and resources for parents](#)