

Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Devices for Students Off and Away for the Day Policy

All Queensland 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.

'Away for the day' supports schools to maintain a strong focus on student educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement by:

- providing optimal learning and teaching environments
- encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promoting the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity
- reducing the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use.

During the Tannum Sands SHS learning day, mobile phones and associated electronic devices must be always switched off and out of sight. This applies while on school grounds or while attending school events between the beginning and end of the learning day unless an exemption has been granted by the principal. It is **unacceptable** for students of Tannum Sands State High School to use a mobile phone or other device from the ***beginning of the learning day at 8:50am until the end of day dismissal:***

- in an unlawful manner.
- to download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures.
- and their own person, to use inappropriate, obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language.
- and their own person, to use language and/or make threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking.
- and their own person to insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language.
- and their own person to commit plagiarism or violate copyright laws.

- or their own person to ignore teacher directions in the use of social media, online email and internet chat
- send spam email (junk mail).
- to knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security.
- to use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets, playground or classroom.
- to invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities, capturing people's images and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material.
- including Bluetooth functionality, to cheat during exams or assessments.
- to take into exams or use during class assessment.

If a mobile phone (or associated electronic device) is sighted or heard during the learning day:

- The student will be required to hand it in at the Administration Office where it will be stored securely until the end of the learning day.
- Failure to submit a phone to the Administration Office when directed can result in an external school suspension. This serious consequence will be the result of the student's failure to comply with school rules and behaviour which impacts on the good order and management of the school.
- Repeated incidents of submission of mobile phone under the policy will result in consideration of a range of consequences including but not limited to: Parents picking up mobile phone, Phone usage plan that includes submission of phone at start of school day or alternative plan.

It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person onsite or in a student's own time, including the recording of fights or harm. The school may consider it appropriate to refer the matter to police.

Students wishing to have their mobile phone or device stored safely at school can present them to the office, where the device will be labelled and kept securely by the school until collection.

Students with medical requirements who need to keep the device on them must provide medical documentation to support this and an exemption will be considered by the Principal or appropriate Deputy Principal.

The use of mobile phones and devices during school activities outside the school grounds (such as excursion, sport and camps) will be at the discretion of the relevant staff supervising the activity.

Parents/Guardians wishing to urgently contact their children, or vice versa, are required to do so through the school office on 4979 9777 and a message will be given to the student. It is understood that students may need a mobile phone before or after school for safety

reasons, and for this purpose, they will be able to use their phone prior to 8:50am and once they are dismissed from class at the end of the learning day.

Students who choose to bring mobile phones or associated electronic devices to school, do so at their own risk and are responsible for ensuring that these items are kept secure and stored in their bag. The school and school staff will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to technology devices nor will they investigate loss or damage.

Mobile phones and wearable devices include all mobile phones, smartwatches, handheld devices and other emerging technologies which have the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet.

It does not apply to personal or school-owned devices, such as iPads, tablets or laptops, that are approved for educational use as part of the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOx) policy.