



Bundamba State Secondary College

Mobile Phone and Digital Device Policy

Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile and Digital Devices – “Away for the Day”

Rationale

Digital literacy refers to the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is dominated by digital technologies like mobile phones and wearable devices. However, the benefits brought about through these diverse technologies can be easily overshadowed by deliberate misuse which harms others or disrupts learning.

On the 6 July 2023, the Minister for Education announced the introduction of a state-wide decision that personal technology devices in Queensland schools from 2024 will be “**Away for the Day**”. The increased ownership of mobile phones requires that College administrators, teachers, students, and parents take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly.

The ‘Away for the day’ policy at Bundamba State Secondary College aims to:

- provide optimal learning and teaching environments, free from the distractions caused by personal use of mobile devices
- support our college to create safe and supportive learning environments that prioritise student engagement and wellbeing
- encourage increased face-to-face social interactions between students, away from screens
- promote the health and wellbeing of students by providing opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during break times
- reduce the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate use of technology, such as cyberbullying or accessing harmful content.

Bundamba State Secondary College has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides stakeholders with guidelines for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours. Bundamba State Secondary College accepts that parents give their students mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal safety e.g. whilst travelling alone on public transport commuting to and from school.

The Acceptable Use Policy also applies during excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities. In the case of College camps involving overnight stay, the College does not permit students attending to use mobile phones. (Staff contact details will be made available to parents for emergency purposes).

To support a culture of students disconnecting to reconnect so our students can focus on their learning, Bundamba State Secondary has a non-visible mobile phone and ear phones, during class time, transitions between classes, and at breaktimes.

This policy has been developed by using Education Queensland Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones by Students. For the purpose of this policy, a portable media device such as iPod, mp3 player and similar will be classed as a mobile phone and subject to the same acceptable use as mobile phones.

This policy does not apply to school-owned digital devices or to **BYOD devices** brought to school by students

Implementation

It is the responsibility of students to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.

College Expectations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile phones (including headphones and wireless earbuds) are to be non-visible from the first bell at 8.40 to the end of school bell at 2.50pm. Students are able to use their phones before and after school. Smart watches need to be in aeroplane mode. • If a student needs to contact a parent/carer during the day, they can request for this to be done at the office. • Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or wearable devices to make payments at the college's tuckshop. Students are able to make payments using physical bank cards or cash • Some adjustments may occur where it supports a students wellbeing/learning who have a current medical diagnosis or neurodivergent needs. • Any mobile phone (including headphones) used during the day will be confiscated. The student will be directed by a member of staff to hand their phone into the Head of Years office. If students follow this instruction there are no further actions or consequences other than to collect the phone at the end of the day. • If the student is being told to hand their phone into the HoY office on a regular basis this will also lead to a consequence. • If a student refuses to follow a teacher's direction, as a result of violating the mobile phone policy, they will face a referral to the Head of Year. Further repeated refusals could lead to a suspension as a consequence
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Theft or Damage

- Students are required to mark their mobile phone clearly and ensure that they are stored in a safe and secure place.
- Mobile phones which are found in the College should be handed in to college office.
- The College accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school. Their security is wholly in the hands of the student.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g., by other students, or if stolen). Students should not share their password/pin numbers.

Inappropriate Conduct

Disciplinary actions will be applied should students engage in the following behaviours:

- using a mobile phone to gain advantage in exams or assessments.
- using an in-phone camera to photograph, video or records other individuals including staff, without their consent.
- using a mobile phone to engage in personal attacks, harass or post private information about another person using the social media, SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls.

It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if actions as sanctioned by the College are deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the College may consider it appropriate to refer the matter to police.