



MOBILE PHONE and WEARABLE DEVICES POLICY

PURPOSE

The Calen District State College (Calen DSC) Mobile Phone and Wearable Devices Policy has been formulated to align with the Education Queensland advice titled: Away for the day - advice for state schools on student use of mobile devices and wearable devices (2023).

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.

As part of preparing students for the future, we believe that mobile phones and wearable devices have a place in society, but should not deter from one's learning. Calen DSC is the workplace for approximately 40 staff and 200 students: as a result, we believe that the behaviours modelled in this workplace should reflect common practices in greater society, including expectations and conduct relating to the use of mobile phones and wearable devices.

OVERVIEW

The adoption of this state-wide approach will support Calen DSC to maintain a strong focus on educational achievement, and student wellbeing and engagement, by:

- providing optimal learning and teaching environments, free from the distractions caused by personal use of mobile phones and wearable devices
- supporting the school to create safe and supportive learning environments that prioritise student engagement and wellbeing
- encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promoting the health and wellbeing of students by providing opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during break times
- reducing 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, accessing harmful content or breaches of personal privacy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Students are permitted to bring mobile phones and/or wearable devices to school with them under the conditions outlined below:

1. Students do so at their own risk and Calen DSC takes no responsibility for their loss, damage or theft.
2. Mobile phones are to be kept out of sight, switched off and not used during the school day or within the school grounds.

3. Wearable devices like smartwatches can be worn, but must have notifications switched off, so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.
4. Students who need to contact home are to do so through the office and are **NOT** to use their mobile phones and/or wearable devices.
5. Parents who need to urgently contact students must do so through the front office. Staff will ensure that students receive messages.
6. Inappropriate content is not to be accessed / stored or displayed on devices.

This policy aligns with all elements of the Student Code of Conduct. Breaches of this mobile phones and wearable devices policy can result in consequences that may include a warning, detentions, suspension or the involvement of the police.

EXEMPTIONS

Students with an approved exemption must only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, approved purpose.

Individual circumstances

Consideration of individual circumstances will be given to students who require temporary or ongoing exemptions to the school's local implementation approach, including where:

- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student to monitor or manage a medical condition (in accordance with the Managing Students' Health Support Needs at School procedure)
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student as an augmentative or alternative communication system or as an aide to access and participate in the environment, e.g. navigation or object/people identification applications
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed adjustment for a student with English as an additional language or dialect
- the student has extenuating circumstances that necessitates the need for access to their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day, including (but not limited to) students who contribute financially to their household, independent students, and students who are primary carers for a child or family member, or
- students in Years 11 and 12 are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

The Principal (or delegate) will consider requests for exemption received from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. When considering an exemption request, the Principal (or their delegate) may seek additional information to support

the need for the student to access their mobile phone or wearable device during the school day.

In making a decision not to approve an exemption, the Principal (or their delegate) will undertake an assessment of the human rights that may be impacted by the decision and consider whether the limit placed on those human rights is reasonable and justified.

Where an exemption is not approved and the student or their parent expresses dissatisfaction with the decision, information about how to make a customer complaint and how a complaint will be managed will be made available in accordance with the Customer Complaints Management procedure.

School specific exemptions (at Principal discretion)

It is acknowledged that the use of mobile phones and wearable devices can sometimes support the school's teaching and learning programs by providing valuable learning experiences for students, as well as supporting day-to-day school operations.

The following school specific exemptions are:

- teachers, in line with their school's local implementation approach, may give permission for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose
- the Principal (or their delegate) may determine to allow the use of mobile phones and wearable devices to make school payments, and/or
- the Principal (or their delegate) may determine to allow students access and use of mobile phones and wearable devices during school representative sports, camps or excursions at specified and supervised times (in accordance with the school excursions procedure).

Where the Principal (or their delegate) makes a decision to permit the use of mobile phones and wearable devices under these specific circumstances, consideration will be given to:

- whether the same outcome can be achieved using student or school-owned devices approved for educational use as part of the school's BYOD policy
- whether the student's mobile phone is able to be connected to the school's network, to support safe and filtered access to the internet (in accordance with the Use of ICT systems procedure), and
- ensuring students only use their mobile phone or wearable device for the intended, agreed purpose.

Consequences of Breaching Phones and Wearable Devices Policy

Example of Breach	Possible Consequences
--------------------------	------------------------------

<p>Student is seen with a mobile phone or wearable device or evidence is provided that a student has used it during school hours.</p>	<p>1st occurrence: Staff member confiscates student's mobile phone or wearable device immediately. Staff member submits phone or wearable device to office for storage. Student collects phone from office at 3pm. Further occurrences: Staff member confiscates phone or wearable device immediately. Parent required to collect from school office.</p>
<p>Student has headphones in ears in class.</p>	<p>Staff member requests student to remove headphones. Student complies resulting in no further action. If student does not comply, referral to Administration.</p>
<p>Student records either still photo or video of other student/s or staff.</p>	<p>Staff member confiscates recording device immediately. Staff member submits phone or wearable device to office. Parent required to attend the school office to collect the phone or wearable device. Suspension.</p>
<p>Student transmits still photo or video image to a third party or online service.</p>	<p>Suspension. Referral to police (where necessary).</p>
<p>Bullying using your communication device.</p>	<p>Phone or wearable device confiscated. Parents contacted. Parent required to attend the school office to collect the phone. Referral to Administration.</p>
<p>Student refuses to provide their mobile phone or wearable device to a staff member when requested.</p>	<p>Parents contacted. Detention and possible suspension.</p>
<p>Other inappropriate use of a mobile phone or wearable device.</p>	<p>Dealt with as determined by Administration.</p>