



MONTO STATE HIGH SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE DEVICES POLICY

Purpose

This policy seeks to both meet the State Government requirement and to specifically improve the culture of student engagement and behaviour by removing the distraction to learning and the potential student safety issues that mobile phones and their accessories represent.

Overview

Monto State High School is 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:

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

Student use of mobile phones and wearable devices at school

The "off and away for the day" policy begins when students arrive on school grounds and concludes at the end of the school day upon their departure. All students must ensure their mobile phones are switched off and stored in their school bags or at the office during school hours. Notifications on wearable devices, such as smartwatches, must also be disabled to prevent receiving calls, messages, or other alerts during this time.

Headphones, Air Pods, and similar devices must remain turned off and out of sight from the moment students enter the school grounds until they leave. This policy applies to all school activities, including representative sports, excursions, and camps, unless otherwise specified by the school principal.

Students are permitted to use their mobile phones or enable notifications on wearable devices only during teacher-led educational activities approved by the principal, or if they have an exemption for medical, disability, or wellbeing reasons.

Canteen Payments

The use of mobile phones and wearable devices are not to be utilised for payments at the school canteen. Payments can be made at the canteen using a debit card, cash or by pre-ordering through the Qkr App prior to arrival on the school grounds.

Storage of mobile phones and their accessories

Students are not permitted to have their mobile phones or their accessories (such as headphones or Air Pods) on them while at school. All mobile phones and accessories must be stored in the students' school bags.

Those who bring mobile phones or wearable devices to school do so at their own risk and are responsible for their security. Students may opt to hand in their devices and accessories to the office for safekeeping before the school day begins. The school and its staff will not be responsible for any loss or damage to technology devices or accessories and will not investigate such incidents.

Principal-approved exemptions

The principal will evaluate exemption requests from students or parents on a case-by-case basis. During this evaluation, the principal may request additional information to justify the need for the student to use their mobile phone or wearable device during school hours.

Approved exemptions, granted solely by the principal, will include specific details about how and when the student may use their device. These exemptions will be documented in the student's OneSchool Support Provisions section and communicated to school staff. Students with an approved exemption are permitted to use their devices only for the specified purposes.



MONTO STATE HIGH SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY PROCESS & PROCEDURES

FIRST OCCASION A STUDENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS USING THEIR MOBILE PHONE

- When a staff member observes a student misusing a device or in possession of one, they should address the issue directly with the student.
- The student is then required to take their phone to the office.
- After leaving their phone at the office, the student must collect a slip from ID Attend before returning to class.
- Once back in class, the student hands the slip to the teacher to confirm that the required steps have been followed.
- A text message is sent to the student's home via the ID Attend system, informing their parents/carers of the violation.
- The teacher records the technology violation in the OneSchool system and refers the incident to the Year Level Coordinator (YLC).
- If a student fails to follow the teacher's instruction, the teacher notifies the office for a member of the administrative team to follow up.



SECOND OCCASION A STUDENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS USING THEIR MOBILE PHONE

- When a staff member observes a student misusing a device or in possession of one, they should address the issue directly with the student.
- The student is then required to take their phone to the office.
- The student is required to return to class with a slip from ID Attend as proof of action taken.
- A text message is sent home via ID Attend to notify parents/carers about the second violation.
- For the following week, the student must hand in their phone to the office every morning before school.
- The teacher records this technology violation in the OneSchool system and refers it to the Head of Department (HOD).
- The Head of Department (HOD) will contact the student's home to discuss the repeated offense.
- If a student fails to follow the teacher's instruction, the teacher notifies the office for a member of the administrative team to follow up.



THIRD OCCASION A STUDENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS USING THEIR MOBILE PHONE

- When a staff member observes a student misusing a device or in possession of one, they should address the issue directly with the student.
- The student is then required to take their phone to the office.
- A text message is sent home via ID Attend to notify parents/carers about the third violation.
- The student's parent or carer is required to collect the phone from the school.
- For the remainder of the school term, the student must hand in their phone at the office every morning.
- The teacher records this technology violation in the OneSchool system and refers it to the Head of Department (HOD).
- The Head of Department (HOD) or the principal will contact the student's home to discuss the repeated offense and next steps.
- If a student fails to follow the teacher's instruction, the teacher notifies the office for a member of the administrative team to follow up.



Students found submitting substitute or 'dummy' devices to avoid confiscation will face further disciplinary action.