



Away for the Day Mobile Devices Policy

We believe in preparing students for the future and that electronic communication devices have a place in society, but should not deter from one's learning or positive social interactions. These principles are in alignment with the state-wide implementation of the 'Away for the day' directive, effective as of January, 2024. With reference to Queensland Government guidelines detailed in 'Away for the day: Advice for state schools on student use of mobile devices', PBC students must keep mobile phones switched off and 'Away for the day' during school hours, and during designated times when attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps in accordance with the [School Excursions Procedure](#).

'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.
- support schools to 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.

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School is the workplace for more than 200 staff and 2700 students; as a result, we believe that the behaviours modelled in the workplace should reflect common practices in greater society, including expectations and conduct relating to the use of devices. The safety and security of personal devices brought to school will remain the sole responsibility of the individual at all times. The school will not accept liability for any damage or loss of personal devices. In the instance that a student is required to hand their device into the office, the safety and the security of the device will be managed in accordance with the [Temporary removal of student property by school staff procedure](#). Students are encouraged to keep devices in a secure place, such as a school bag, on their person or simply left at home. Students will be permitted to use their mobile devices as a form of payment at the school canteen, under the strict condition that they immediately switch the device off and place it away upon leaving the canteen. Students are permitted to bring mobile phones and personal electronic devices such as laptops to school under the conditions outlined below:

All students must adhere to the following expectations:

- Mobile phones are not to be used during school hours, in any year level. Mobile phones must be switched off and stored in a student's school bag, stored safely on their person or left at home.
- Devices must not be used for listening to music, communicating or engaging in social media during school hours.
- Personal headphones (wired and unwired) must not be used or visible during school hours. Students will be instructed to hand these in with their mobile phone to administration if used without an exemption during school hours.
- When in class, laptops must only be used with teacher consent. Teacher-approved and planned device use is aimed to assist and enhance learning experiences.



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- Smartwatches may be worn during school hours, providing that notifications are switched to off. If smartwatches are used for communication purposes during school hours, students will be instructed to hand the device into the office, as they would a mobile phone.
 - Devices (including smart watches) must not be brought into examination rooms and must not be present during informal/formal assessment, in line with our assessment policy.
 - No photos, videos or voice recordings are to be taken at school, shared, forwarded, uploaded, sent, or stored unless specifically directed by staff.
 - No photos, videos or voices of students or staff are to be shared, forwarded, uploaded, sent, or stored on devices.
 - Devices should not be used to download, distribute or publish offensive/sexual messages or pictures.
 - Devices should not be used to publish obscene, abusive, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language as well as any language/threats that may amount to bullying, harassment, violence or stalking.
 - The PBC name and logo must not be used without permission of the Executive Principal.

Students who breach the 'Away for the day' policy will be subject to appropriate behavioural consequences as outlined in the PBC Student Code of Conduct and Mobile Device Management policy. Behavioural consequences for breaches of this policy include:

- Instruction for students to hand in their device, to be collected at the conclusion of the school day, as per *Temporary Removal of Student Property* policy.
- Referral by classroom teacher to Deputy Principal as per Student Code of Conduct.

Limited exemptions to the 'Away for the day' policy will be granted at the discretion of PBC Campus Principals and Deputy Principals. Exemptions will be formally recorded as a student support provision and be granted only 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, with applications assessed on a case-by-case basis by Deputy Principals and Principals. This will include (but is not limited to) students who contribute financially to their household, independent students, and students who are primary carers for a child or family member.
- Students in Years 11 and 12 are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

Parents and guardians who require contact with a student during school times must do so through the relevant school administration buildings only.



At all times students, while using ICT facilities and devices supplied by the school, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the Palm Beach Currumbin State High School Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students and their parents should:

- Understand the responsibility and behaviour requirements (as outlined by the school) that come with accessing the department's ICT network facilities.
- Ensure they have the skills to report and discontinue access to harmful information if presented via the internet or email.
- Be aware that:
 - Access to ICT facilities and devices provides valuable learning experiences for students and supports the school's teaching and learning programs.
 - The school is not responsible for safeguarding information stored by students on departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices.
 - Schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or mobile devices for management purposes.
 - Students who use a school's ICT facilities and devices in a manner that is not appropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, which could include restricting network access.
 - Despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed.
 - Teachers will always exercise their duty of care, but avoiding or reducing access to harmful information also requires responsible use by the student.
 - This policy has been developed in alignment with the [Advice for state schools on acceptable use of ICT facilities and devices](#) policy document, as encompassed in the [Use of ICT systems](#) procedure.