



**Stretton State College**

*"With Purpose & Spirit"*

## **Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Smart Devices Policy**

### **AIM**

Stretton State College is committed to reducing the distraction of mobile phones and wearable devices in order to provide optimal learning environments for all students.

Away for the Day at Stretton State College aims to:

- provide optimal learning and teaching environments, free from the distractions caused by personal use of mobile phones and wearable devices
- create a safe and supportive learning environment that prioritises student engagement and wellbeing
- encourage increased face-to-face social interaction 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.

**In line with the Department of Education's 'away for the day' approach, the following expectations and procedures are in place at Stretton State College as of 22/1/24.**

- All students must keep mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' from when they first enter College grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. (2.45 pm) Mobile phones must also be switched off and away while students are attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps.
- All students must switch off notifications on personal smart devices, including smartwatches, from when they first enter College grounds until after they leave their final class for the day, and while attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, ensuring that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

- All students must keep headphones, air pods and similar devices turned off and away from when they first enter College grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. These devices must also be switched off and away while students are attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps.

### **Whole College clarifications**

#### **Responsibility for mobile phones and other electronic devices**

- The College cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or health effects resulting from the use of any mobile phones or other electronic devices. Mobile phones and personal technology devices brought to school are done so entirely at the owner's risk. Parents and students are reminded that these devices are personal property and are not insured by the College or Education Queensland.
- Students should not allow other students to access their phone or personal smart device, as use of a phone remains the owner's responsibility.
- Personal laptops and College issued laptops are considered personal smart devices if they are being used for non-teacher directed learning or classwork.
- It is advisable to protect phones and other electronic devices with security codes, clear markings and to keep them in a safe place while at the College.

#### **Urgent contact between students and families**

Families will need to be aware that students cannot be contacted via their mobile phone or personal smart device from when students first enter College grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. For routine and non-urgent communication, students will be able to check any messages or notifications when they turn their devices on at the end of the school day.

Parents and caregivers may also be able to communicate with their child via email.

Students in the Senior School are encouraged to check their emails on a regular basis using their BYOD devices. In the case of genuinely urgent or time-critical messages, parents and caregivers will be able to communicate to their child by contacting the College office.

#### **Exemptions**

Families can apply for an exemption by completing the attached form and submitting this to

**admin@strettonsc.eq.edu.au**. A copy of the form is also available on the College website.

Exemptions will be managed by the College's Executive Leadership team and may be granted on grounds including use of a device:

- to monitor or manage a medical condition, in accordance with established health support procedures;
- as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties;
- as an augmentative or alternative communication system or as an aide to access and participate in the environment;
- as an agreed adjustment for a student with English as an additional language or dialect;
- in extenuating circumstances that necessitate the need for access to a mobile device during the school day, including students who are primary carers for a child or family member; and

- by students in Years 11 and 12 who are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

#### **Gowan Campus (Junior School) clarifications**

- Electronic devices (mobile phones, tablets, iPads) are prohibited in classrooms and the playground. Any device brought to school **must be handed in to the front office on arrival** and collected at the end of the school day.
- Wearable devices (smartwatches) are permissible to be worn at school but notifications and access to phone calls and personal messages must be disabled during school time.
- Earphones and similar devices are not to be used at school.

#### **Illaweena Campus (Senior School) clarifications**

- Illaweena students (Senior School) have the option to hand their mobile phones and personal technology devices into the office at the start of each day for safe storage. Otherwise, Illaweena students who bring mobile phones to school must keep these devices out of sight on their person or in their school bag. Any loss (including theft) is at the risk of the owner if the mobile phone has not been handed into the office for safekeeping.
- Students are permitted to use mobile phones or wearable personal smart devices to make payments at the College's canteen once they are standing inside the canteen, uniform shop and for office payments. The College would prefer that students organize other payment options such as a physical debit or credit card, online ordering, pre-loaded Flexischool student ID cards or cash.
- Teachers within the College's Senior School may give permission for students to use their mobile phones, wearable personal smart devices or headphones during a lesson for a specific and agreed educational purpose. Teachers will provide permission for specific times and uses that provide a genuine educational benefit that cannot be achieved using student or school-owned devices approved for educational use as part of the College's BYOD policy.
- College staff may designate specific times during school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, when students are permitted to use their mobile phones and personal smart devices under teacher supervision.
- This policy does not apply to school-owned digital devices or to BYOD devices brought to school by students in the Senior School.

Dated 22/01/2024