



# **MOBILE PHONE AND WEARABLE DEVICE POLICY**

## Centenary State High School

Centenary State High School is a Positive Education school. Our moral purpose is “To foster positive relationships so that all learners can flourish and feel a strong sense of belonging”. Central to belonging and achievement at Centenary SHS is connecting with others, engaging in learning and developing healthy habits.

Centenary SHS is a mobile telephone and wearable device-free school. From the beginning of Term 1, 2024, all Queensland state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and “away for the day” during school hours. Notifications on wearable devices, such as smartwatches, must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours. All headphones required for learning at school are those suitable for wired connection to a school-approved BYOD learning device.

The Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy commences full implementation from 22 January, 2024.

### Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Expectations

We want all students to flourish and feel a sense of belonging to our school. Our focus for mobile phones and wearable devices is to develop student agency – where students exercise personal responsibility within the policy expectations.

The intent of this policy is to establish and maintain an interruption-free focus on educational achievement, and a healthy approach to student wellbeing and engagement by:

- providing optimal learning and teaching environments
- encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promoting the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interactions and physical activity
- reducing the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology and social media use.

This policy applies to mobile phones and hand-held or wearable electronic devices. This includes Bluetooth devices, AirPods/headphones, smart watches, personal gaming stations, and hand-held devices that do not meet the requirements of the school approved BYOD learning equipment.

All students are expected to comply with this policy – **this includes at all times where students are present on school grounds, representing the school, or on a school activity, camp or excursion.**

**The school expectations with respect to mobile phones and wearable devices is as follows:**

- **Security Pouches** – every student will be provided with a secured pouch for their device upon enrolment at the school, or at the commencement of Term 1, 2024.
- **Security pouch possession** – mobile device security pouches are part of the non-negotiables for school and possessing a security pouch will become part of our daily expectations.
- **Bringing a device to school** – students who bring a device to school will be expected to evidence it being switched off and locked in the provided pouch upon entering the school grounds. **Device pouches will be expected to be placed on the desk in each class.**
- **School property** – the security pouch is provided by the school and is school property. The student is responsible for maintaining their issued security pouch. Deliberate damage, defacing or destruction of the pouch will result in the student/family being invoiced for the replacement cost of a security pouch.

**The expected student interaction with the pouch is as follows:**

- **Upon entering the school grounds** – mobile devices and wearable devices (other than smartwatches) are to be switched off, placed in the pouch and the pouch locked. **This is a student responsibility.** Students may be asked to evidence that their pouch is locked.
- **Upon entering the school grounds** – wearable smartwatches are required to be switched to flight mode, with notifications, incoming and outgoing calls and messages disabled. Students may be asked to evidence that their smartwatch is in flight mode. Students will be required to submit any smartwatch not switched to flight mode to the school's Administration Office.
- **Compliance with security pouches on school grounds** – students who do not follow, or who attempt to circumvent the requirements of the security pouch e.g., lock away an old device while keeping their current device in their possession; not locking their devices/headphones in the pouch will be required to submit their security pouch and locked device to the school's Administration Office. This device will be available for **collection by the student/parent or carer** at the end of the school day – collection details depend on the frequency of the non-compliance (see processes for non-compliance).
- **For excursions** – students are required to lock their devices in the security pouch before leaving the school for the excursion. All excursions will return to school where students will unlock their security pouches before heading home.
- **For medical necessity** e.g., blood glucose monitoring – this will form part of the school medical management plan and will be recorded as a Medical Support. Students will be issued with a pass for their device. Students who have a medical exemption will be expected to only access their device in accordance with the timelines and conditions as agreed to in their signed medical management plan. Medical support will also be entered into a student's personalised learning record.

**Processes for Non-Compliance with the Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy**

This Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy has been developed in line with the Queensland Government advice. This policy has been developed considering the feedback from parents/carers, students and staff. As a result of this requirement, the Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy will be implemented with fidelity.

**Non-Compliance with Policy – First Infringement**

- Students found using a device **or** refusing to secure **or** evidence their device in the security pouch will be *referred in the first instance to the Deputy Principal.*
- This will be recorded as non-compliance with the Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy. The device will be secured at the school's Administration Office for collection by the student at the conclusion of the school day.
- The student will be required to **read and complete a reflection sheet** based on the eSafety Commissioner's advice regarding *Balancing your time online*: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/balancing-your-time-online#why-should-i-balance-my-time-online> or *Pressures from social media* <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/pressures-from-social-media>.

**Non-Compliance with Policy – Second Infringement**

- Students found using a device **or** refusing to secure **or** evidence their device in the security pouch will be required to submit their device to the Year Level Deputy Principal.
- This will be recorded as repeated non-compliance with the Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy. The device will be secured at the school's Administration Office for collection by a parent/carers at the conclusion of the school day – or other time as arranged with the school.
- An afterschool detention will be issued.
- Student will be referred for this second infringement at the review of Good Standing. A second infringement **may** contribute to a loss of Good Standing until the next review juncture.

**Non-Compliance with Policy – Ongoing Infringement**

- Repeated infringements of the Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy will be considered refusal to comply with a school policy and will result in a loss of Good Standing until the next review juncture.
- A repeated refusal to follow a school instruction impacts the good order and management of the school. Continued refusal and ongoing non-compliance will result in consideration of a School Disciplinary Absence.

**Non-compliance with consequences regarding infringements** – *for example, student refusal to submit a device as required on first or second infringement, or refusal to complete the reflection sheet.*

- This behaviour will be considered a refusal to follow a school instruction which impacts the good order and management of the school and may result in consideration of a School Disciplinary Absence.
- Where this misbehaviour forms part of an ongoing pattern of misbehaviour outside of device management, further SDA consequences may be considered.

**Parental advice of detentions/consequences**

- Parents/carers of students who receive a consequence at the first and second infringement stage will receive this advice via SMS/Email.

**Parental advice of ongoing infringements**

- Processes, considerations and requirements will be discussed upon the advice of SDA and return from suspension interview.

**Special Considerations**

- Parents/carers should contact the Year Level Deputy Principal or Principal to discuss the options available if there are specific circumstances that need to be considered.
- An interpreter or support person can be arranged if required to attend a meeting with the Principal or his/her delegate.

**Relevant Legislation and Policy**

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) Chapter 12, Part 9 ss.360-363

- Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cwlth)
- [Department of Education and Training Inclusive Education](#)