

HSSC Mobile Phone and Personal Technology Devices Policy



This policy has been designed to support the directive from the Minister of Education that places a ban on Mobile Phones and Personal Technology devices in QLD schools from 2024. Whilst our college community understands the benefits and connectedness of our modern society, we also acknowledge the significant challenge created by an over-dependence on mobile phones and personal technology, resulting in disconnection with: daily learning routines, appropriate social communication and positive engagement with student peers and staff.

Highfields State Secondary College is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school and supports the appropriate use of laptop devices to enhance learning outcomes while ensuring all staff and students are safe, college routines are respected and that students are engaged in our positive learning environment.

Highfields State Secondary College has a policy of no mobile phones and personal technology devices. This does not include laptop computers that are brought by students to the college each day as part of our agreed BYOD program.

For the purpose of this **Mobile Phone and Personal Technology Devices Policy the following devices are identified as banned during the school day:** all mobile phones including 'dummy/decoy phones', portable music players, ear buds / air pods, portable speakers and gaming devices.

If smart watches are to be worn, notifications must be disabled for the school day.

Students who choose to bring personal technology devices to school, do so at their own risk and are responsible for ensuring their safety and security and that they are not visible or audible. The school and school staff will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to personal technology devices.

HSSC Expectation - *Every student, every day*

All mobile phones and Personal Technology Devices – “Off and Away for the Day”

All students will have their mobile phone and/or personal technology devices turned off and out of sight from when they enter the gates before the first bell until when they leave the gates after the final bell at 3:00pm. Smart watches must be disabled for the school day prior to entering through the gates.

Personal 'hotspots' created by any device during the school day is a breach of the Department of Education's IT policy.

Storage - Students wishing to have their mobile phone or personal technology device stored safely at school can present them to the office, where the device will be labelled and kept securely by the school until collection.

Parents / Carers -Parents/carers wishing to urgently contact their students, or vice versa, are required to do so through the college office. The college phone number is: 46147222. If a parent/carer contacts their child on their mobile phone or personal device, the consequences for breaching this policy will still apply.

College Canteen -Personal devices or mobile phones **are not permitted** to make purchases at the college canteen. **Cash and physical card only.**

Exemption process - Students with medical needs who need to seek permission to use their device during the school day must provide medical documentation through a formal application process with the year level Deputy Principal. This information will then be reviewed by the appropriate Deputy Principal or Principal who will make the final decision. If an exemption is approved an individualised plan will be developed for the student.

Excursions – On a ‘case by case basis’, students may be allowed to access their mobile phones whilst on an excursion depending on the circumstances of the excursion. The regular every day school process applies to all students on the excursion unless told differently.

Consequences for breaches of the Mobile Phone and Personal Technology Devices Policy are:

If a mobile phone or device is sighted or heard, the student will be required to hand it in to the HSSC administration where it will be stored securely until 3.00 pm.

First occasion - a member of the HSSC administration team will send an SMS to the parents / carers advising them of the confiscation and future consequences for a repeated breach.

Second occasion – a Deputy Principal will contact the parents / carers advising them of the confiscation and the consequence for a second breach is an after-school detention. A parent / carer will be required to collect the phone from the college administration.

Third occasion - On the third and subsequent breaches of this policy, it will constitute repeated refusal to follow instructions, and in line with the HSSC Code of Conduct, will result in consequences that could include, but not be limited to an external suspension.

Refusal to comply with the directions given to surrender a mobile phone or device will result in ‘third’ occasion consequences.