



### Use of Electronic Devices by students

In 2024 mobile phones and smartwatches are banned from all state schools in Queensland.

While the school allows electronic devices at school, we must ensure that students do not use these devices in a manner that interrupts the learning of others. To that end, the school has the following list of protocols and procedures for students to follow when they bring their device to school. This list is not exhaustive, and if in the professional judgement of a member of school staff, a student is affecting the learning of others through the manner in which they use their electronic device, the staff member's directions in relation to the student and their device and/or attachments (e.g. earphones) need to be followed without equivocation and in good time.



In consultation with the broader school community, Mackay North State High School has determined that explicit teaching of responsible use of electronic devices is a critical component of digital literacy. The knowledge and confidence to navigate and use these technologies safely while developing digital literacy is a responsibility shared between parents, school staff and students. The security of the device whilst at school is the sole responsibility of the student.

It is also agreed that time and space should be provided at school where technology is not permitted, and students are encouraged to engage in other social learning and development activities. Please respect the community-agreed expectations and behaviours for these spaces.

### Responsibilities

The responsibilities for students using electronic devices at school or during school activities, are outlined below.

It is **acceptable** for students at Mackay North State High School to:

- use iPads and computers for
  - assigned class work and assignments set by teachers, under the direction of teachers
  - developing appropriate literacy, communication and information skills
  - authoring text, artwork, audio and visual material for publication on the intranet or internet for educational purposes as supervised and approved by the school
  - conducting general research for school activities and projects
  - communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers, parents or experts in relation to school work
  - accessing online references such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, etc.
  - researching and learning through the department's eLearning environment

- be courteous, considerate and respectful of others when using an electronic device

It is **unacceptable** for students at Mackay North State High School to:

- use or be seen with a mobile phone during school hours
- download, distribute or publish offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory or derogatory language
- use language and/or threats of violence that may amount to bullying and/or harassment, or even stalking
- insult, harass or attack others or use obscene or abusive language
- deliberately waste printing and internet resources
- damage computers, printers or network equipment
- commit plagiarism, violate copyright laws or use AI and claim as their work
- ignore teacher directions for the use of any device functionality
- send chain letters or spam email (junk mail)
- knowingly download viruses or any other programs capable of breaching the department's network security
- use in-device cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets
- use an electronic device to take pictures or video recordings of other students whilst at school or in school uniform
- Use an electronic device to stream or broadcast images or audio of teacher or students
- invade someone's privacy by recording personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. forwarding, texting, uploading, Bluetooth use etc.) of such material
- use an electronic device (including those with Bluetooth functionality) to cheat during exams or assessments
- use electronic devices in exams or during class assessment without the express permission of an appropriate school staff member (i.e. Head of Department)
- wear earbuds while being addressed by a member of staff or as part of the school uniform, either through or under items of clothing and should not be taken into class without teacher permission
- use their device to play audible music or other media to groups of students without permission
- make arrangements with people outside of the school to pick up or drop off materials, food etc.

Students found to be in breach of this section of the policy may find themselves subject to the stages of the *Student Code of Conduct*.

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 Mackay North 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 other electronic devices
- schools may remotely access departmentally-owned student computers or devices for management and maintenance 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

**Some related resources**

[\*Phones away for the day\*](#)

**Departmental Policies and Procedures:**

[\*Queensland Government away for the day\*](#)