

# Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Devices



## Scope

This policy refers to the student management and use of mobile phones and personal electronic devices at Bremer State High School. For the purposes of this policy, headphones are considered a personal electronic device. This policy outlines the expectations for mature and responsible use of any personal electronic devices and/or connected networks while at school or on a school-related activity. Restrictions to mobile phone and personal electronic device use apply on all school-related activities, even if outside of school hours.

For the purpose of this policy, a mobile phone or personal electronic device is any non-BYOX device that has any of the following functions:

- Internet access
- Ability to send and receive correspondence (text, audio and other forms)
- A camera

## Policy Statement

Bremer State High School recognises that the negative impact of excessive personal technology use on the learning and wellbeing of young people has been well established. This is further reinforced by the State Government's *Away for the Day* directive. Further information and research underpinning the decision to restrict mobile device use in schools can be found at [Phones away for the day](#).

Bremer State High School has restrictions in place for the use of mobile phones and personal electronic devices to support and enhance the learning and engagement of our students. By reducing distractions and promoting focussed classroom environments, this policy aims to support learning environments that are conducive to academic growth and meaningful social interactions. This policy is also informed by the following concerns:

- The school's duty of care to all students is compromised when the use of mobile phones and personal electronic devices is unregulated.
- The use of mobile phones or personal electronic devices to record or take images of others without consent invades students' and staff members' right to privacy.
- Inappropriate internet sites cannot be blocked by the school on mobile phones or personal electronic devices using cellular networks.

## What are the requirements for students?

Between 8:50am and 2:50pm (or the conclusion of the school day), students will be prohibited from using their mobile phone or other personal electronic device/s except in circumstances explicitly outlined in the *Special Circumstance* section of this policy.

**Bremer State High School discourages students from bringing mobile phones and personal electronic devices into the school grounds.** However, the school recognises that some students require access to a mobile phone or electronic device for safety reasons, particularly when travelling to or from school. In response to this, the school provides students with three options for compliance with the policy:

1. Students may leave their mobile phones and personal electronic devices at home/with a caregiver.
2. Students may remain in possession of their device while at school by keeping it locked in a school-provided pouch from 8:50am and until they exit the school at the end of the school day.
3. Students may hand their phone in to their year level hub upon arrival to be securely stored until collection at the end of the school day.

Students who choose to be in possession of a mobile phone or personal electronic device via the use of a pouch are solely responsible for its security and care. The school accepts no responsibility for items that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises or off campus activities.

Please note - iPads and laptops used as part of the school BYOX program are the exception and are to be used during school time under the supervision of the classroom teacher for educational purposes. Use of any personal device on a cellular network is a breach of the conditions of the BYOX program. Use of a BYOX device between 8:50am-2:50pm for purposes not directly related to education (such as accessing social media sites) is prohibited.

## In summary

<b>Everyday Everywhere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No mobile phones or personal electronic devices visible or heard between 8:50am and the conclusion of the school day.</li> <li>• No mobile phones or personal electronic devices kept in students' possession between 8:50am and the conclusion of the school day except when secured in a locked pouch or with prior approval from Bremer SHS staff (specific and agreed curriculum use or medical/health exemption).</li> <li>• No use of social media or messaging (including on BYOX devices).</li> <li>• No use of hotspots or VPNs.</li> <li>• No headphones.</li> <li>• Mobile phone pouches are not to be taken to bathrooms.</li> <li>• Social media and messaging services are to be accessed on any device</li> <li>• No recording of images or voice of themselves or others</li> </ul>
<b>Library</b>	<p>In addition to the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No mobile phones or personal electronic devices visible or heard at any time.</li> <li>• BYOX devices used for educational / recreational purposes only when supervised by staff.</li> </ul>

## Consequences

Students who choose not to follow the Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Devices Policy will be required to hand their phone and any other personal electronic devices in to the office. In addition to this, students will be issued with consequences in line with our Student Code of Conduct.

## Recording Voice and Images

- Students are not to use personal technology devices to record or transmit images, audio or videos (of themselves or others) while at Bremer State High School unless they are doing so under the direct instruction and supervision of a teacher.
- Any student who uses a personal technology device to record audio, or capture images or video is in breach of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the police. In such cases police may take possession of such devices for investigative purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact Queensland Police Service (QPS) directly.

## Approved Curriculum Use of Personal Technology

There may be instances in which use of a mobile phone or personal electronic device is deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher. For example, using the camera function of a mobile phone in a Film & Television lesson. The use of mobile phone or personal electronic device in these contexts is at the discretion of the teacher. **Students are only to use these devices when explicit permission has been provided in each instance.** Students who are found to be using their mobile phone or personal electronic device for curriculum/other purposes but without permission of their teacher may be subject to the consequences articulated in this policy and our Student Code of Conduct.

## Special Circumstances Arrangement

Students who require the use of a mobile phone or personal electronic device in circumstances that would contravene this policy (e.g. diabetic students who require network connected continuous glucose monitoring devices) are required to apply for an exemption and include supporting documentation to verify the student's special condition and required use of a personal electronic device. Exemption application forms can be collected from the Student Office, Year level hubs, reset room, or be [downloaded](#). Exemption Application forms are to be submitted to the Year Level hubs or emailed to [admin@bremershse.edu.au](mailto:admin@bremershse.edu.au). Submission of an exemption application does not guarantee the exemption will be granted. All students are prohibited from any use of mobile phones or personal electronic devices until a Personal Electronic Device Exemption Card has been supplied.

Upon the approval of an exemption application, students will be provided with a Personal Electronic Device Exemption Card. Any students with a Personal Electronic Device Exemption Card will still be held to the conditions stated in the policy, except for in the specific circumstances articulated in their exemption approval. Please see the below example of appropriate and inappropriate use of a Personal Electronic Device Exemption.

Example Scenario	
Jamie has a Personal Electronic Device Exemption to manage her diabetes. Jamie's exemption states she is allowed to keep her device in her possession (on silent and out of sight). When use is required for diabetes monitoring, Jamie is to inform her teacher and step outside the classroom to use her device.	
Appropriate Use of Exemption	Inappropriate Use of Exemption
When use is required for her medical condition, Jamie notifies their teacher, steps outside the classroom to use her device, and then returns promptly to class with their phone on silent and out of sight.	<p><i>Example A</i> Jamie leaves the classroom without their teacher's knowledge or permission to access her device.</p> <p><i>Example B</i> Jamie follows the conditions of their exemption during all classes but uses their phone for other purposes at break times and when accessing toilets.</p> <p><i>Example C</i> Jamie lends their phone to a friend who needs to call their parent.</p> <p><i>Example D</i> Jamie uses their device as expected for their medical condition, but checks their notifications on social media before returning to class.</p>

## Communication between parents and students during school hours

- If a parent/guardian needs to contact their student during school hours, this must be done through the school office and year level hubs.
- If a student needs to contact a parent/guardian, a call may be facilitated through the year level hubs.
- Should a student need to go home because of illness or any other reason during school hours the year level hubs will contact a parent or caregiver to coordinate arrangements.
- In the case of a broad-scale event such as a weather event, text messages will be generated and sent to all parents/guardians using the school's communication system. Staff will assist in facilitating the safe collection of all students. Students pouches will be unlocked if required.

## Responsibilities

Person/Role	Responsibilities
<b>Students</b>	Students are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adhering to the Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Devices Policy at all times, which includes notifications disabled on wearable devices during school hours</li> <li>• using devices appropriately for curriculum purposes when instructed by staff.</li> <li>• for complying with all staff directions.</li> <li>• if required - making an application for exemption with the support of their parent/caregiver</li> <li>• if permitted to use a mobile device at school under an approved exemption, only use it for the intended and agreed purpose</li> <li>• must inform the Principal (or their delegate) of any changes to individual circumstances that relate to approved exemptions</li> </ul>
<b>Parents/Caregivers</b>	Parents/caregivers are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reinforcing to their child/ren the expectations articulated in the policy.</li> <li>• prompt communication with the school regarding concerns relating to the policy, including applications for exemption.</li> <li>• for purchasing a replacement pouch in the event it is lost or damaged.</li> </ul>

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