

Parent and carers

‘Away for the day’ – Frequently asked questions

Phones
away
for the day
from 2024



Mobile phones and wearable devices

When does 'away for the day' begin?

From Term 1 2024, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours. At Clontarf Beach State High School, this means from when you come onto school property, to when you leave.

Wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can be worn however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

Why are students being asked to put their phone away for the day?

This approach is being implemented in all Queensland state schools to help:

- reduce distractions in the classroom
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.

Can my child take their phone with them when travelling to and from school?

Yes, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone or wearable device to school. Students will be able to use their phone outside of school hours and off school property to support safe travel, and to make contact with parents, friends and part-time employers.

Where will my child store their phone during the day?

At the commencement of the 2024 school year, each Clontarf Beach SHS student will be provided with a lockable, signal blocking phone pouch. Students will be required to place their mobile phones - switched off - into the pouch as they arrive to school each morning and lock the mechanism.

Students will unlock their pouch at one of our many unlocking stations as they leave the school grounds.

Where will my child keep their phone pouch during the day?

Pouches are to be kept in school bags at all times where students are out of class and their bag remains with them, for example at lunch breaks and moving in-between lessons.

Pouches will be taken into classrooms during lessons, as bags remain outside.

If your student needs to leave the classroom during the lesson, for example to access the bathroom, pouches will be placed in a device storage box situated near the teacher in the classroom.

How will my child access their timetable/Compass during the day?

Students can access their timetable via Compass on their BYOx Device during class time.

Students can also access their timetable via Compass or OneSchool, accessible from their laptop. Year 7 students and parents, and those new to Clontarf Beach SHS in 2024, will be provided with a Compass login and username shortly after the start of the 2024 school year.

Clontarf Beach SHS acknowledges that Compass is an integral part of our communication as a school community. Students will still be able to access Compass via their laptop during school hours, and via their mobile device outside of school hours.

Can my child still bring wearable devices to school?

Wearable devices such as smart watches can be worn, however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

My child's phone does not connect to the internet, will they be allowed to use their phone?

No. Any phone that has the ability to connect to telecommunication networks or the internet must be switched off and away for the day.

How will I contact my child at school in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, you will still be able to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office on 3480 4777.

How will my child contact me while they are at school?

If your child becomes unwell or experiences an issue during the school day, it is important that they report to a staff member in the first instance. Staff will follow appropriate school processes and make contact with parents and carers.

In the event of an emergency at school, we will follow our Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, which includes processes for communicating with parents and carers.

My child has a part-time job, how will their employer contact them?

Students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school; however, they must be switched off and put 'away for the day' while on school property. It is important that your child notifies their employer that they will not be able to receive or respond to messages and calls during school hours. After school hours, and offsite, students will be able to check for messages from their employers.

Will my child be able to use their phone / wearable device to make school payments?

No. Mobile phones will not be accessible for this purpose. Students can pre-order via [QKR](#), use cash, physical debit cards or an alternative pre-loaded payment card.

Can my child use their phone while they are on excursions?

Mobile phones and wearable devices are not to be used during school activities such as representative sport, camps and excursions, unless an exception is made by the principal.

If this is the case, information will be included in the excursion permission form.

Who is responsible for my child's phone during the day?

If your child chooses to bring a phone to school, they will be responsible for the mobile phone during the school day.

Who is paying for the lockable phone pouch?

Clontarf Beach SHS will be funding one pouch per student.

When will my child receive their phone pouch?

Each student will receive their phone pouch on their first day of school. They will label their pouch with their name immediately and sign a document to confirm that they have received their pouch.

What happens if my child loses or damages their phone pouch?

If a student loses or damages their phone pouch, they will be required to purchase a replacement pouch. They will be available for purchase from the Payment Centre.

If your family is experiencing financial hardship you are encouraged to speak to our Business Manager or a Deputy Principal to discuss.

What if my child forgets their phone pouch?

If a student forgets their pouch, they will be required to hand their mobile phone in at the office for secure storage for the day. They can collect their phone at the end of the day.

What can I do now, to prepare my child for this in 2024?

Ensure your child has a way to make purchases at the tuckshop or canteen:

- cash
- physical debit card
- online ordering through [QKR](#).
- alternative pre-loaded payment card – these work just like Go Cards and are available from multiple vendors

Form a plan for communication before and after school, and ensure they know to go to the main office if they need to contact you urgently.

Ensure your child has a calculator for class. Our preferred calculator is the TI-30 Scientific Calculator.

Ensure your child has a BYO device (laptop) and that it has been onboarded for school access.

Replace wireless ear pods/headphones with wired headphones that will connect to your child's BYO device (laptop).

Encourage your child to wear a watch.

Talk to your child about making arrangements with their employer – they will not be able to receive or respond to messages and calls while at school.

If your child currently uses their phone regularly throughout the day, wean them off the device by having non-screen times at home.

What will happen if my child doesn't put their phone "away for the day"?

If your child chooses to bring a phone to school, and does not lock it in their phone pouch, they will receive consequences for not following our school procedures, in line with our Student Code of Conduct.

My child uses their phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition. Can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions can be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes.

Please contact us at info@clontarfbeachshs.eq.edu.au if you believe your child requires consideration.

My child uses their phone / wearable device as an adjustment to access and participate in the curriculum. Can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions can be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for learning, medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons.

This may include scenarios where:

- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties, as advised by a medical professional

- the mobile phone or wearable device is used by the student as an augmentative or alternative communication system or as an aide to access and participate in the environment e.g. navigation or object/people identification applications, as advised by a medical professional
- the mobile phone or wearable device is used as an agreed adjustment for a student with English as an additional language or dialect
- students in Years 11 and 12 have received for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

Please contact us at info@clontarfbeachshs.eq.edu.au if you believe your child requires consideration.

Will my child still get to use their phone for learning purposes, or in subjects that require technology?

Students will have access to their BYO devices (laptops) for learning purposes. In some circumstances, teachers may give permission for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose. In this instance, students are only to use the phone for the agreed purpose, then at the conclusion of the activity, switch it off and put it away again. Teachers will ensure this expectation is clear, and consequences will apply if students do not comply.