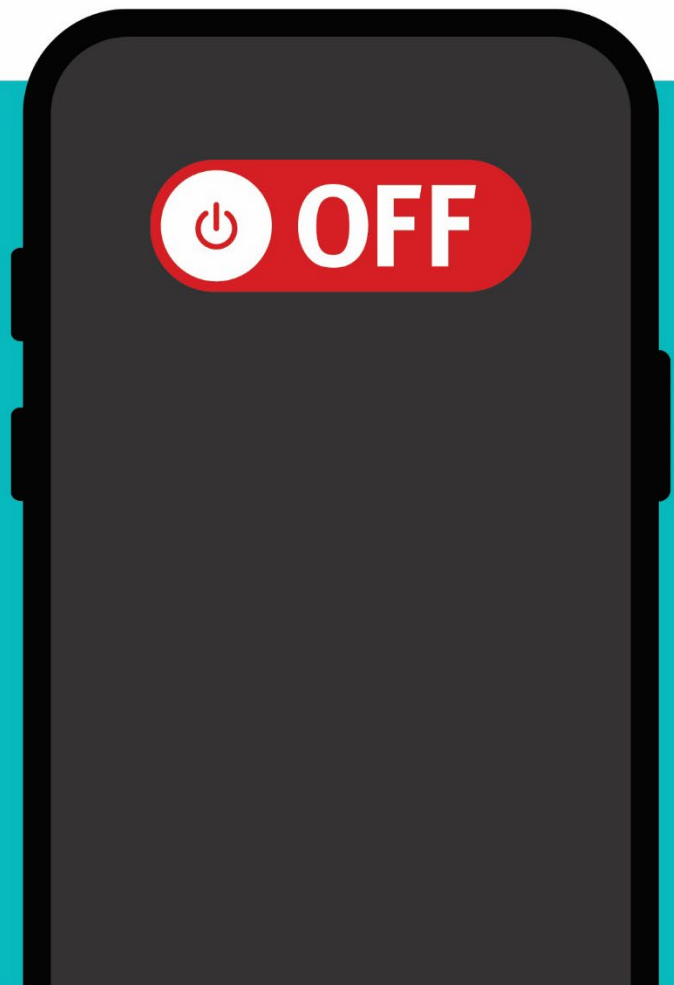




# 2024 Away for the day

## Student and family Information

**Phones**  
**away**  
**for the day**  
from 2024



V1.1 | Last updated 16 November 2023

## Rationale

From Term 1 2024, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours, including break times.

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 students 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 to support safe travel, and to make contact with parents, friends and part-time employers.

## Can students 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.

## If a student's phone does not connect to the internet, will they be allowed to use it during school hours?

No. Any phone brought to school by a student must be switched off and away for the day.

## If a student requires to use their phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition, can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions will be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes. Parents/carers are required to apply for an exemption by contacting their student's Year Level Deputy Principal.

## If a student requires to use their phone / wearable device as an adjustment to access and participate in the curriculum, can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions will be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for learning, medical, disability support, wellbeing reasons or approved curriculum adjustments. Parents/carers are required to apply for an exemption by contacting their student's Year Level Deputy Principal.

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

In some circumstances, the Principal may give approval for students to use their mobile phone or wearable device in the classroom, for a specific and agreed educational purpose. In this instance, teachers will ensure that students only use the phone for the agreed purpose, then at the conclusion of the activity, switch it off and put it away again.

## If a student forgets their lunch, how will a parent/carer contact them?

Forgotten lunches, or school resources may be dropped off at the school office. Office staff will utilise the school's PA system during break times requesting students come to the office to collect these items. The school's PA system is intentionally not used during class time to minimize disruptions to the learning environment.

## How will a parent/carer contact their child at school in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an **emergency**, parents and caregivers can reach their students by contacting the school office. As a large school with over 2,300 students, CDSHS faces challenges in efficiently relaying messages to students due to the heavy workload on office staff. We kindly request parents/carers be mindful of this limitation when deciding to make contact with the school.

## How will a student contact their parent/carer while at school?

In most instances students will **not** be able to contact parents/carers by using their phone during school hours. The school will have designated 'green zones' where students will be permitted to use their mobile phone in emergent situations under the supervision of staff. This includes the administration office and the engagement centre.

If a student 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, the school will follow their Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, which includes processes for communicating with parents and carers.

## If a student 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' during school hours. 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, students will be able to check for messages from their employers.

### Will students be able to use their phone / wearable device to make school payments?

Yes, the tuckshop, uniform shop and student counter are all 'green zones' where students are permitted to use their device to make payments when required.

### Can a student 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.

### Where will students store their phone during the day?

If a student chooses to bring a phone to school, the phone must be **not seen or heard**, and either kept in their bag or on their person (e.g. in student's pocket or pencil case).

### Who is responsible for a student's phone during the day?

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