

## Pine Rivers State High School – 'Away for the Day' Local Implementation Approach

### Rationale

Following an independent, Statewide review including consultation with key education stakeholders, students, and families, 'Away for the Day' has been devised by the DoE to "support schools to maintain a strong focus on educational achievement, and student wellbeing and engagement by:

- Providing optimal learning and teaching environments
- Encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- Promotion the health and wellbeing of students through increased social interaction and physical activity
- Reducing the potential for students to be exposed to the negative impacts of the digital world, resulting from unsafe or inappropriate technology use."

<https://intranet.qed.qld.gov.au/EducationDelivery/educationandict/Pages/student-use-of-mobile-devices.aspx>

### Context

This Approach should be read in conjunction with the following Department of Education documents:

- Advice for state schools on student use of mobile devices:  
<https://intranet.qed.qld.gov.au/EducationDelivery/educationandict/Documents/advice-state-schools-student-use-mobile-devices.docx>
- Frequently asked questions for school staff:  
<https://intranet.qed.qld.gov.au/EducationDelivery/educationandict/Documents/faq-school-staff.docx>

For the purposes of this document, 'mobile device' will be used to refer to mobile phones and wearable devices. The time during which this Approach applies, all learning time such as early start classes, the time between Form (8:45 am) and the end of Period 4 (2:50 pm), and all out-of-school related learning activities, for example after school training, tutoring, rehearsals and other extra-curricular activities.

### Approach Details

#### 1. Storage of Student Devices

Students are encouraged to store their mobile phones during the day:

- on their person (in a student's pocket or pencil case)
- in the student's school bags.

Mobile devices are not to be in sight in the learning environment e.g. placed on top of desks, unless under direction of the teacher and in line with prior Principal or Deputy Principal permission to do so, or in circumstances where the student has an exemption (*see 2. Exemptions*). Storage of mobile devices remains the responsibility of the student.



## 2. Exemptions

### a. Individual Circumstances

Principal-approved temporary or ongoing exemption circumstances include the following:

- Medical conditions e.g. Diabetes monitoring, mental health support
- Provision of reasonable adjustments for a student with disability or learning difficulties
- Augmentative or alternative communication system
- Assistance to access and participate in the learning environment e.g. navigation
- Agreed adjustments for a student with English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D)
- Students with extenuating circumstances e.g. students who are primary carers, independent students, those who contribute financially to their household
- Assistive technology AARAs

### b. Individual Exemption Requests

- Exemption requests should be directed to the Principal via the relevant Deputy Principal and include details of the device/s and circumstances in which the device is to be used.
- Details of how and when a student may access their mobile device will be communicated to the applicant and documented in the student's OneSchool Support Provisions tab, by the relevant Deputy Principal.
- Communication to staff, including temporary relief staff, will be via Compass.
- Requests should be submitted with accompanying support documentation e.g. medical letter or Health Plan, recommendation from a school-related specialist e.g. Guidance Officer

### c. School Specific Exemptions

- Principal-approval is **granted** for students using wearable devices for the purposes of assisting/tracking performance while competing at representative school sport i.e. District, State, National level.
- Principal-approval is **not granted** for:
  - i. general use on school camps or during excursions
  - ii. purchases during school hours e.g. at the Tuckshop, Uniform Shop, office payments
  - iii. inter-school sports competitions or school-based sporting carnivals
- Subject-specific exemptions should be made by teachers to the subject Head of Department, to be discussed with the relevant Deputy Principal.

### d. Non-approved Exemption Requests

Where an exemption is not approved and the student or their parent expresses dissatisfaction with the decision, information about how to make a customer complaint and how a complaint will be managed should be made available in accordance with the [Customer complaints management procedure](#).

- e. Principal-approval of the use of mobile devices is made in consideration to:
- whether the same outcome can be achieved using student or school-owned devices approved for education use as part of the school's BYOD policy
  - whether the student's mobile phone is able to be connected to the school's network, to support safe and filtered access to the internet (in accordance with the [Use of ICT systems procedure](#))
  - ensuring students only use their mobile device for the intended, agreed educational purpose

### 3. Supporting Responsible Use of Mobile Devices

The school's *Student Code of Conduct* contains clear expectations for parents and student about what devices are allowed at school, how they are to be used, and the possible consequences for failing to meet the stated expectations.

Consideration of the following have occurred:

- responses that are proportionate and equitable
- individual circumstances for each student
- preventative measures that promote the safe, respectful and positive use of mobile devices through delivery of the Australian Curriculum and specific programs focused on digital literacy
- Departmental procedures e.g. *Temporary Removal of student Property by School Staff* and policies e.g. *Inclusive Education policy*
- Legislation e.g. *Human Rights Act Qld (2019)* and *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)*

**Approved by:** Richard James, Principal

**Date of approval:** 16 January 2024