



Kelvin Grove State College

The Pursuit of Excellence With All Our Might

19 January 2024

“Away for the Day” Mobile Devices Policy

Dear Kelvin Grove families

I hope that all of our students have enjoyed the summer break and that our KG families are ready for another big and exciting year at Kelvin Grove! Our staff have had a great start to the new school year this week with some productive days of professional development and planning. We are looking forward to welcoming our students on Monday!

Late last year, I wrote to all of our Kelvin Grove families with details around our implementation of the Queensland Government’s ‘away for the day’ approach to students’ use of mobile phones and wearable devices in Queensland state schools.

The approach seeks to reduce the distraction of mobile phones and wearable devices in order to ensure optimal learning environments for all students. At Kelvin Grove, the ‘away for the day’ approach represents minimal change from our existing policy for students across most year levels in the college.

As we prepare to welcome students to the new school, I would like to remind our families of the expectations that will be in place at Kelvin Grove in relation to students’ mobile phones and electronic devices:

- All students must keep mobile phones switched off and ‘away for the day’ from when they first enter college grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. Mobile phones must also be switched off and away while students are attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps.
- All students must switch off notifications on wearable devices, including smartwatches, from when they first enter college grounds until after they leave their final class for the day, and while attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, ensuring that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.
- All students must keep headphones, airpods and similar devices turned off and away from when they first enter college grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. These devices must also be switched off and away while students are attending school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps.
- Students in the college’s Junior School who bring mobile phones or other digital devices such as tablets or iPads to school must hand these items in to the Junior School office on arrival at school and collect them at the end of the school day.
- Students in the college’s Middle School and Senior School who bring mobile phones to school must keep these devices out of sight on their person or in their school bag.

- Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or wearable devices to make payments at the college's tuckshops or vending machines. Students are able to make payments using physical bank cards or cash.
- Teachers within the college's Middle School and Senior School may give permission for students to use their mobile phones, wearable devices or headphones during a lesson for a specific and agreed educational purpose. Teachers will provide permission for specific times and uses that provide a genuine educational benefit that cannot be achieved using student or school-owned devices approved for educational use as part of the college's BYOD policy.
- College staff may designate specific times during school activities, such as representative school sport, excursions and camps, when students are permitted to use their mobile phones and wearable devices under teacher supervision.
- Students who require access to their mobile phone, wearable device or headphones during school hours or school activities for medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons must have an approved exemption and will be issued with an exemption card or sticker, which must be shown to college staff on request.
- This policy does not apply to school-owned digital devices or to BYOD devices brought to school by students in the Middle School and Senior School.

To help prepare for a smooth implementation of our revised mobile devices policy, I encourage our KG families to:

- discuss the updated policy with their children to ensure they are aware of the expectations and procedures that will be in place;
- where necessary, make arrangements for their children to have access to a physical bank card or cash to enable payment at the college's tuckshops;
- apply for an exemption for any child who may need to access their mobile phone, wearable device or headphones for medical, disability and/or wellbeing reasons; and
- give consideration to appropriate strategies for communicating with their children during the school day or school activities.

Families can apply for an exemption by completing the attached form and submitting this to inclusionadmin@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au. A copy of the form is also available on the college website. Exemptions will be managed by the college's Inclusive Education Department and may be granted on grounds including use of a device:

- to monitor or manage a medical condition, in accordance with established health support procedures;
- as an agreed reasonable adjustment for a student with disability or learning difficulties;
- as an augmentative or alternative communication system or as an aide to access and participate in the environment;
- as an agreed adjustment for a student with English as an additional language or dialect;

- in extenuating circumstances that necessitate the need for access to a mobile device during the school day, including students who are primary carers for a child or family member; and
- by students in Years 11 and 12 who are applying for Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) for assistive technology.

Families will need to be aware that students cannot be contacted via their mobile phone or wearable device from when students first enter college grounds until after they leave their final class for the day. For routine and non-urgent communication, students will be able to check any messages or notifications when they turn their devices on at the end of the school day. Parents and caregivers may also be able to communicate with their child via email. Students in the Middle School and Senior School are encouraged to check their emails on a regular basis using their BYOD devices. In the case of genuinely urgent or time-critical messages, parents and caregivers will be able to communicate to their child by contacting the college office.

Over the first weeks of the new school year, our college staff will clearly communicate the revised policy to all students. Teachers will provide students with regular reminders in relation to our expectations and procedures. Students who fail to comply with the college's policy may have their devices confiscated and such situations will be managed in accordance with the college's Student Code of Conduct. Arrangements will be in place for those rare occasions when Middle School and Senior School students who need to make payments at the college's tuckshops have forgotten their bankcard or cash. In these circumstances, students will speak with their Head of Year, who will assist with alternative arrangements.

I thank all of our Kelvin Grove families for your support in the implementation of our updated mobile devices policy in alignment with the Department of Education's 'away for the day' approach.

We look forward to welcome all of our students back to the college on Monday, 22 January!

Best wishes



Joel Buchholz
Executive Principal