Overview

The Queensland Government has made a decision to ban mobile and wearable devices in all Queensland schools in 2024 during school hours. This ban includes mobile phones and smart watches. At William Ross State High School, our policy stipulates that all mobile phones and headphones are not to be used when attending school. Smartwatches may be worn, but should be in flight mode. Extensive consultation was undertaken, with students and staff in the revision and implementation of this policy.

Mobile and Wearable Devices at School – Policy and Expected Student Behaviour

Device Type	School Policy	Expected Student Behaviour
Mobile Phones	Mobile phones are not be to seen	Students will have their phone "off
	and/or used during school hours.	and away" from 8:45am until
		3:00pm.
Wearable Smartwatches	Smartwatches may be worn but	Students will put their
	must be in "flight mode" and are not	Smartwatches on flight mode from
	to be used during school hours.	8:45am until 3:00pm.
Headphones	Air pods/Ear pods/headphones are	Students will keep headphones
	not to be seen and/or used during	away from 8:45am until 3:00pm
	school hours.	

Students and parents are reminded that valuable personal technology devices such as mobile phones, headphones, tablets, laptops etc. are brought to school at their own risk. Students may use laptops and/or tablets as part of our Bring Your Own Device program. These devices are not covered in the *Mobile and Wearable Devices Policy*.

Exemptions

Exemptions for the Mobile and Wearable Devices Policy at William Ross State High School are as follows:

- Medical Exemption for students who require their mobile phone device for legitimate medical grounds
 (i.e., a student with diabetes who uses their device to check their insulin levels). Parents/guardians who
 believe their child requires an exemption should speak with the relevant Deputy Principal of their child's
 Year Level. All applications for medical exemption should be provided in writing, along with supporting
 documentation to the Principal.
- **Curriculum Exemption** for students who are using their device under the supervision of a teacher, approved by a Head of Department, for curriculum purposes.
- School Camps/Carnivals students may use their Mobile and Wearable Devices on the way to and from school camps. They may also be used responsibly and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct at School Carnivals.

Confiscation

Students who are using a mobile phone and/or wearable device on our campus will be instructed to hand it into the Administration Office. The consequences for repetitive breaches of our policy are outlined below. Students who refuse the reasonable instruction of staff may face disciplinary action, including suspension in accordance with our Student Code of Conduct. Devices potentially containing evidence of criminal offences may be reported to the Queensland Police Service (QPS). In such cases, QPS may take possession of such devices for investigation purposes and students and parents will be advised to contact QPS directly.

Consequence/Follow Up Flowchart for Repeated Breaches of the WRSHS Mobile and Wearable Device

Students are made aware of our Mobile Phone and Wearable Device Policy, as well as our Student Code of Conduct. For students who fail to meet the expectations of this policy, the consequences are outlined below. These consequences are reset each school Term, allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate responsibility and compliance with our school policy. Students who refuse to comply with the reasonable instructions of staff may face serious disciplinary consequences in line with the William Ross State High School Student Code of Conduct.

1st Time

•The 1st time a student breaches the Mobile and/or Wearable Device policy, the student hands the phone into the Administration Office to be collected by the student at the end of the school day. The student is reminded of our policy expectations and issued a detention. The Administration Office sends a text message to parents reminding them of our policy and informing them that their child has had to hand their mobile device in.

2nd Time

•The 2nd time a student breaches the Mobile and/or Wearable Device policy the student hands the phone into the Administration Office to be collected by the student at the end of the school day. The Administration Office issues a lunch time detention. The student is spoken to by a Year Level Coach and/or Deputy Principal regarding our policy and reminded that if there are further breaches a parent/guardian will need to collect.

3rd Time

• The 3rd time a student breaches the Mobile and/or Wearable Device policy the student hands the phone into the Administration Office and a parent will be contacted to collect the device <u>during office hours</u>. The student is spoken to by a Year Level Coach and/or Deputy Principal regarding our policy and reminded that if there are further breaches arrangements will be made for them to either not bring the device to school or to hand it in at the start of the school day for a negotiated time.

Further Breaches •Subsequent breaches of the Mobile and Wearable Device policy will result in a parent/guardian being contacted to collect the device and arrangements will be made for the student to either not bring the device to school or to hand it in at the start of the school day for a negotiated time.

William Ross SHS Office Hours 8:00am – 3:30pm Monday - Friday