



Maroon Outdoor Education Centre

Mobile phones, Electronic games, Music devices

Management Controls:

All Queensland state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'away for the day' during school hours. The decision to implement a consistent, state-wide approach to putting mobile phones away during the school day is based on the advice of Ms Cheryl Vardon AO, former Queensland Family and Children's Commissioner, who completed an independent review of Queensland's approach to mobile phones. Ms Vardon AO's review included consultation with key education stakeholders, such as principals, school staff, students and families from each education region, as well as a review of recent research on student use of mobile phones and personal devices in schools.

'Away for the day' mobile phone policy supports schools to maintain a strong focus on student educational achievement, wellbeing and engagement by:

- providing optimal learning and teaching environments
- encouraging increased face-to-face social interactions between students
- promoting 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.

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre is a Department of Education facility and, as such, implements the same mobile phone policy for students as all other state schools. However, as Maroon OEC is a residential facility this means that mobile phones and other mobile devices cannot be turned on and used whilst students are engaged in our programs. Maroon OEC programs run continuously over the time that a student is here with their school.

Our learning programs are designed and implemented for students to develop personal and social capabilities such as Teamwork, Resilience, Connection and Leadership. This is achieved through adventure based learning and community living.

Students

To enable the program to be optimally beneficial it is Maroon OEC policy that mobile phones, electronic games and music devices are **not permitted by students** at Maroon OEC unless there has been prior negotiation with the visiting schools where such a device is necessary for the management of a medical, disability and/or wellbeing reason.

It is expected that:

- Students will be fully advised of the Maroon OEC policy regarding the possession and use of all electronic devices prior to arrival at Maroon.
- Student mobile devices should be collected by the visiting school staff as soon as possible upon students' arrival and stored in a locked location for the duration of the students stay at Maroon OEC.
- Visiting school teachers are asked to accept responsibility for this policy.

- Maroon OEC teachers will accept responsibility for implementing this policy during any curriculum activity whether that be on-site or off-site including bushwalking, overnight expedition or campout experience.
- Students failing to comply with Maroon OEC policy will be required to hand over their mobile phone or electronic devices to a teacher with collection/return to occur at the end of the program.
- Maroon OEC will accept no responsibility for loss or damage to any mobile phone or electronic device that has been brought to camp.

Teachers and Accompanying Adults

To enable the program to be safe and optimally beneficial:

- Mobile phones can be used discretely during non-program time.
- Mobile phones are only used during curriculum activities for professional reasons. Again, discretion is required when students are present.