

9 July 2019

Dear parents/caregivers

We are seeking your support to help keep our young people safe, happy and successful.

Learning to use technology appropriately and safely is essential in a 21<sup>st</sup> century education context.

At Seaview High School, we have a number of systems in place to monitor and manage appropriate use of the internet, within our school environment. These protections are only achievable when students access sites using the school's Wi-Fi and do not extend to the use of personal data.

Unfortunately, there are a number of students who choose to **hot spot** to their phones and bypass our filtering system to access apps, which are not school approved. The constant distraction caused by notifications and messages, is not only interrupting student learning, some apps are also being used as a platform for cyber bullying. Not surprisingly, this is impacting on student engagement, participation and wellbeing.

After much deliberation and with some regret that our **Student User Agreement**, in conjunction with **Learner Agreements** and **Cyber Safety Education**, have not been enough to guarantee a safe, positive and productive learning environment for all students, we will be implementing a **ban on mobile phone use in ALL classrooms** at Seaview High School in Term 3.

From the beginning of Term 3 **ALL** students will be expected to have their **phones switched OFF** and stored securely, **during lesson time**.

At this stage the ban does not extend to recess and lunch; however, access to devices during break times will be closely monitored and reviewed, if necessary.

Year 8 students will be encouraged to use the **Mobile Phone Hotel** provided in their classroom. All other students will be expected to use their locker to secure their mobile phone.

NB: Access to laptops and/or iPads will continue, except in exceptional circumstances and/or where a student consistently fails to adhere to the school's user agreement.

The following steps will apply to all students:

1. ALL students will continue to be required to sign the school's user agreement, which is explicit about appropriate use before being granted access to the school's free Wi-Fi.
2. ALL mobile phones will be switched OFF and stored securely during lesson times.
  - a. Year 8 students will store their devices in the **Mobile Phone Hotel** in their classroom
3. Any mobile phone that is visible during lesson time will be confiscated by the teacher and passed on to a member of the senior executive team for safe keeping.
  - a. Confiscated devices will be available for collection from the Front Office at the end of the school day.



4. Non-compliance will be dealt with through the Behaviour Management Process.
5. Parents/caregivers who need to contact their child during the day are asked to do so at recess or lunchtime only.
6. In the case of an emergency please contact the Front Office.

Appropriate use of electronic devices, including mobile phones, is the responsibility of the account holder. In the case of our students, this is generally you, the parents. To support you to manage and monitor your child's use of their mobile devices, in the home environment, we provide the attached advice sheet.

We look forward to working with you to ensure all of our students are safe, ethical, responsible and self-disciplined users of technology.



Penny Tranter  
Principal

