

## MOBILE PHONES and PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

While it is clear that technology can have a positive impact on 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning, there is increasing evidence that it can also be a source of distraction in the classroom. The overuse of technology may also have a negative impact on the physical and psychological health of developing children and young people. Recent research indicates that learning and positive, social interactions improve significantly when these potential distracters are removed from the school environment.

### Mobile phones and personal electronic devices

The South Australian government has committed to **banning student access to mobile phones and personal electronic devices at school across all year levels from 2023.**

The aim of the ban is to help promote:

- safe environments with reduced negative impacts of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and critical incidents that involve mobile phones
- classroom environments where teachers can teach and students can learn free from distractions caused by personal use of devices
- use of breaks as quality time away from screens, encouraging physical activity and play and meaningful face-to-face connections with peers.

From 2023 students will be required to store their personal electronic devices “off and away” between the start and end of each school day. This includes while students are present on school grounds, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, camp or similar.

To support the implementation of the government policy Seaview High School will provide a **YONDR** pouch, free of charge, to **all students** from the beginning of the 2023 school year.

The **YONDR** program has been implemented effectively in over 1,000 schools, across 21 countries. For a brief overview of the use of YONDR in schools please [click here](#).

Students will **switch off** all personal electronic devices as they enter the school grounds and place them securely in their personal **YONDR** pouch. The **YONDR** pouch is able to store multiple devices, including a mobile phone, smart watch and wireless/Bluetooth ear buds. The pouch is then locked by pressing the magnetic fastener and remains locked for the duration of the day. The pouch is unlocked at one of several stations as students exit school at the end of the school day.

In the event of a student leaving early the pouch will be unlocked at Student Services.

Students are required to bring their **YONDR** pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. Students who fail to bring their **YONDR** pouch to school (due to loss, damage or forgetting to bring it) will hand in their personal devices to Student Services as soon as they arrive at school.

Students will be encouraged to store the pouch in their locker, or alternatively, they may choose to carry them with them during the day.



### **Use of iPads and LAPTOPS:**

To achieve the objective of the government policy the use of laptops and/or iPads will not be permitted outside of the classroom (this includes before school, recess, lunch and after school).

### **Exceptions:**

Students may be permitted to use their devices in the following circumstances:

- An approved Seaview Plus activity that requires supervised access to electronic devices
- After school homework club in the Learning Hub
- Work completion (under direct supervision of a teacher).

The use of **Personal Hotspots at school is not permitted**. Students who have iPads with sim card capability must remove the card prior to arriving at school. If Seaview's network is unavailable (due to power outage or similar), teachers will negotiate alternative activities.

[This implementation plan](#) is in draft form and **will be reviewed in Term 1, 2023 in consultation with stakeholders**. If a student does not comply they will be deemed in breach of the Department for Education's Policy and dealt with through the [Seaview High School Behaviour Support](#) process.

If you have any questions or concerns that are not covered in the attached [Frequently Asked Questions](#) please contact Bill Stapleton on 8377 8000, or via email: [bill.stapleton884@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:bill.stapleton884@schools.sa.edu.au)

We are confident there will be many benefits to our students' wellbeing and achievement as their reliance on technology is reduced and thank you for your support as we implement the South Australian Government ban and Department for Education's updated Policy at Seaview High School.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Tranter  
Principal



Bill Stapleton  
Deputy Principal

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