

26 October 2023

mw:lm

STUDENTS USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS

Dear parents, caregivers and students,

The NSW Government has announced restrictions on the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

Batlow Technology School has made changes to the way mobile phones are accessed by students during the school day. The new system was implemented in Term 3 to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and to also promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Important changes coming in Term 4

The new mobile devices management plan at Batlow Technology School will apply to mobile phones, smart watches and listening accessories such as ear pods and ear buds. The ban will occur during all school hours, including break times such as during lunch and recess, as well as while students are on school-based excursions.

Failure to adhere to the ban may result in disciplinary action being taken and/or the mobile phone being surrendered at the office and/or banned from coming to school. Surrendered mobile phones will need to be collected by a parent/carer from the office.

Students will still be able to carry their phones while travelling to and from school.

School staff can allow students to use their mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, for their wellbeing or to support students with specific needs.

Parents/carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption will need to make an appointment to discuss with the principal. Exemptions will only be considered for students with a justified medical condition or ASIC Health Care Plan that is considered life threatening.

What does this mean?

Every student will secure their phone every day in a Yondr pouch when they are at school or on a school-based excursion or activity. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until they are unlocked at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their Yondr pouch at all times.

Yondr pouches are available from the front office. Students and parents are required to sign a Yondr Phone Pouch Agreement on receipt of a Yondr pouch.

Batlow Technology School will always make sure you can contact your child in an emergency. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly on **02 6949 1208**. There will also be further information posted on school communication platforms.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Wainwright

Principal