

Parent Exemption Letter: Mobile Phones



Dear parents, caregivers and students,

You may have heard recently about the changes to the use of mobile phones in NSW high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

Dubbo School of Distance Education acknowledges the benefits of using various forms of appropriate technology to support teaching and learning. Whilst this may minimise the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school, we also recognise that incorrect use may cause harm. We are committed to supporting our students to use technology in a safe, responsible and respectful way, to enhance student learning and engagement.

There are important changes coming in Term 4, which will impact all students.

Important changes coming in Term 4

- Mobile phones **will not** be used during school hours, including break times such as lunch and recess, as well as during school excursions.
- 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.
- Individual student applications for exemption will be assessed and considered by the school for medical and learning needs.

Considerations for exemption

If you have concerns about your child not having access to a mobile phone, we would be happy to discuss this further with you. Students with special needs, including medical and learning needs, may apply for an exemption. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Principals will manage requests for exemption. They will be granted in consultation with teachers, students and families, and require an application and agreed implementation plan, which will be completed during this consultation process.

If you believe your student is eligible for exemption, please complete the following form, so that we can arrange for you to meet with the principal.

We look forward to working with you to implement these changes in our school.

Sincerely,

Debbie Murray

Principal, Dubbo School of Distance Education

Application for Mobile Phone Exemption

Parents/Carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption, will need to *complete the following application, provide verified documentation to support the student's application for exemption, and arrange for a meeting with the principal.*

Checklist:

- *A written application, (to be emailed to the principal for consideration)*
- *Documentation to support the application (e.g. medical letter from treating doctor)*
- *Book an interview with the principal by phoning the school.*

Student Name: _____

Year/Student Adviser: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Outline the health or wellbeing reason requiring this exemption and attach any evidence to support this exemption (e.g. letter from treating doctor)

Signed: _____ Date: _____