

# Parent/Carer Information Letter



**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.

**Dubbo School of Distance Education** will be making changes to the way mobile phones are accessed by students during the school day. The new system is being implemented 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 **Dubbo School of Distance Education** will apply to mobile phones and 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 and staying overnight at residential.

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 contact the school or visit our website for an exemption notification process.

## **How we will restrict mobile phone access**

After careful consideration with our key stakeholders, we have decided to proceed by using the option of **mobile phones stored in lockers** to reduce the distractions of students in the classroom.

### ***What does this mean?***

Students will be required to hand in their mobile phones on arrival at the school site to their supervising teacher/s. Their devices will be locked away securely in the time that they are at school. Supervising teachers/staff will be able to provide access to students when required for educational purposes.

We are excited to make our school a mobile phone-free space to improve learning and engagement, however, we 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 5804 7000**. Further information including FAQs, policy and exemption letter is available on the school website if required.

Sincerely,

**Debbie Murray**

Principal