

# Student use of mobile phones in schools

## Information for parents and carers

### The ban on mobile phones in high schools is now in place

The ban on using mobile phones in high schools builds on the ban already in place in NSW public primary schools.

The ban applies during class, at recess and at lunch. Students are permitted to carry a phone while travelling to and from school.

The principal and teachers can also authorise the use of mobile phones for educational purposes or as part of a reasonable adjustment for student learning and wellbeing.

To support the introduction of the ban, the NSW Department of Education had asked schools to consult with their local communities on a range of implementation options.

These options included:

**Off and away:** Phones are off and away in classrooms (typically kept in the student's school bag). Phones are not used for the duration of the school day.

**Phones in lockers:** Students do not carry the phones with them; they must be kept in a locker for the duration of the school day.

**Locked phone pouch:** Students place their phone in a magnetically locked pouch and are unable to use their phone for the duration of the school day. Pouches are magnetically unlocked at the end of the school day.

**Phones collected at the front office:** Students deposit their phone at the school's front office at the commencement of the school day and collect it at the end of the school day (or when leaving the school premises).

**Phones collected at the start of the lesson:** Phones are collected and stored by the teacher at the commencement of the lesson, and returned to the student once the lesson concludes and/or as the student is exiting the classroom.

Individual school communities decided which option they would adopt for implementation of the policy.

### Student communication with parents and carers during school hours

There may be times when parents or carers need to contact students or vice versa during the school day. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if it's urgent.

#### Telephone interpreter service

If you would like more information please call the school. If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language.

Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

