



MENAI HIGH SCHOOL

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Relieving Principal
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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.

Menai High School will be making changes to the way we currently implement our mobile phone policy, which already ensures that mobile phones are not accessed by students during the school day. The new system is in line with the goals of our current system; to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions, and to also promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Currently, Menai High School provides students with YONDR pouches so that phones are guaranteed to be switched off and unavailable to students. We are now moving away from YONDR pouches with the new policy focusing on phones being switched "off and away" at school. The new mobile devices management plan at Menai High School 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.

Students will still be able to carry their phones while traveling to and from school, but phones must be switched off and put away while at school. If a student is caught using or having their phone out of their bags at any stage of the school day or within school grounds our current policy states that the student *will be directed to take their phones to the front office, and they will face the following consequences:*

- *On the first occasion the phone will be removed and placed in the front office. The student can collect the phone at the end of the day.*
- *On the second occasion the phone will be removed and placed in the front office and will be held there until the parent/guardian comes to the front office to pick it up. The student will be issued with a formal caution for continued disobedience.*
- *On the third occasion the student may be suspended for continued disobedience.*

This policy will be revised and potentially updated in 2024.

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.

We are committed to ensuring that our school remains 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.

Sincerely,

John Stanley
Relieving Principal