



Airds High School

Principal – Mr S McGuire

Deputy Principals – Mrs J Clifford, Mr D Monte and Ms M Mitchell

School Administration Manager – Mrs P Strange

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. Airds High School 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. However, you will always be able to contact your child in an emergency via the front 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 upon application.
- Individual student requests for exemption will be assessed and considered by the school for medical and learning needs. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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.

The Principals or his delegate 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. We look forward to working with you to implement these changes in our school.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen McGuire
Executive Principal

Application for Mobile Phone Exemption

Parents/Carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption will need to complete Section A, linking the reasons for an exemption to the learning, wellbeing and health needs of the student. Note: All cases will be treated on a case-by-case basis.

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Outline the health or wellbeing reason requiring this exemption.

Section A

Signed: _____

Date: _____