



PACIFIC PINES STATE HIGH

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE TO EMPOWER SUCCESS

To Parents/Carers,

You would be aware from my video at the end of 2022, that there has been an update to our mobile phone policy for 2023.

We have been using the first 2 weeks of Term 1, 2023, as a time to remind students of our new policy and expectations, without putting in place any consequences.

Before I go any further, I want to congratulate our students on their response to the new policy, particularly during break times. It's been such a positive to see students actively interacting with each other during break times without the distraction of technology. It really has been great seeing our students disconnect to reconnect.

With the first 2 weeks of Term 1 being finished, our new mobile phone policy is now in full implementation.

What this means:

- Mobile phones are to be non-visible from 8:45am-2:45pm. Students are able to use their phones before school and after school.
- If students need to contact a parent/carer during the day, this can be done in either first or second break where we have three designated phone zones for this to occur.
 - Year 11-12 students: VL Block
 - 7-10 students: Learning Hub
 - 7-12 students with a disability: ILEAD
- Students are able to use their phone to purchase food at the canteen. This is for the purpose of purchasing food only and phones should not be visible while lining up or selecting food, only at the point of purchase.
- At times phones will be used in classrooms with expressed permission from the teacher only, after Head of Department and Deputy Principal approval has been sought.
- At all other times, phones are non-visible either in the student's pocket or bag.
- Headphones are also required to be non-visible, and students will be asked to remove them.

In instances where students are choosing not to follow the mobile phone policy, they will be directed by a member of staff to hand their phone into Student Services. If students follow this instruction there are no further actions or consequences other than to collect their phone at the end of the day.

If a student refuses to follow a teacher's instruction, as a result of violating the mobile phone policy, they will face a suspension from school. In the 1st instance, this will be a 1-day suspension, with the length of suspension increasing for further instances.

I would like to thank our parents/carers for their support of our policy and its positive impacts and re-iterate that our students are showing maturity and responsibility in how they are adapting to and supporting this policy.

With the mounting research clearly indicating the negative impacts phone use has on mental health and wellbeing, it's been great seeing our students embracing the opportunity to disconnect to reconnect while at school, and really focusing on their learning and relationships with their peers.

Regards,

Mark Peggrem