

# MUDGEE HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, we are considering some changes to our personal electronic devices policy. The Department of Education and Communities is also considering updates to the policy on students bringing their own devices to use at school. As part of these changes, we expect to provide a process to allow the school and the department to efficiently incorporate student-owned devices into our digital learning environments while protecting school and DEC infrastructure and data.

During the drafting of our policy, we wish to trial some of the proposed changes over the **last four weeks of this term**. There will be two trials – one for senior students and one for junior students. We intend to permit some restricted use of personal devices during breaks.

For all students, the trial will permit the use of their own electronic devices to listen to music and play games during breaks in any part of the playground or in the library provided headphones are used. Students must adhere to our code of practice during the trial or their permission will be withdrawn. The principal and/or a parent may withdraw a student from the trial at any time with written notice. **(See below for the form if you do not want your child to participate in this trial).**

For senior students only, the trial will also permit the use of their own electronic devices in the senior area during breaks to make phone calls, connect to the internet, and send and receive text messages.

For junior students, use of their device to send or receive text messages or connect to the internet will only be permitted during breaks, in the library. The making of phone calls is permitted in the library but must be with the prior permission of the librarian in order to minimise disruption to others.

Senior students may also use their own electronic devices during study periods either in the undercroft or the library, provided they use headphones and do not disturb others. Senior students should restrict such use so it does not interfere with effective use of their study time.

## **Code of Practice for Student Use of their own Electronic Devices during the term three trial:**

1. Student use of their own electronic devices during lessons is at the direction of the teacher only.
2. Student use during breaks must be within the restrictions of the trial. Use of their own electronic devices in areas other than the senior area and library is restricted to listening to music and/or playing games. Ear phones must be used and other students and teachers must not be disturbed by the activity.
3. When a teacher wishes to speak to a student, ear phones/buds must be removed.
4. Students must **not** use their devices during breaks to take photographs or make audio or video recordings.
5. Students must **not** use their device to knowingly search for, link to, access or send anything that is: offensive, pornographi , threatening, abusive, defamatory or which might reflect negatively on the reputation of Mudgee High School or harass or intimidate another person.
6. Students must report inappropriate behaviour and material to a teacher.
7. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a device contains inappropriate material or has been used in a way that breaches the conditions of the trial, the device may be confiscated. The consequences of any breaches of this policy will be determined by the principal, in accordance with the school's welfare and discipline policies.
8. The principal retains the right to determine what is, and is not, appropriate use of a personal device at school.

Parents who do NOT wish their son/daughter/ward to participate in this trial should complete the slip below and return it to the front office by Monday 19 August 2013. If parents do not wish their son/daughter/ ward to participate in the trial they must ensure he/she does not bring their own electronic device to school.

I do NOT wish my son/daughter/ward \_\_\_\_\_ (insert student name) of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert year) to use his/her own electronic device as part of the trial in term 3 2013. I agree to ensure he/she does not bring his/her own electronic device to school during the trial.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date