



Dargaville High School

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FULL MOBILE PHONE BAN AT DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL EFFECTIVE 18 OCTOBER 2021

Tēnā tātou katoa

At the End of Term Two, the Board of Trustees made the decision to put in place a ban on mobile phones at school. This is a decision that has the full support of staff and myself as the Principal. During this term our Leadership Team have been working through the logistics of how this will work, to be ready for implementation from the start of Term 4.

We have noticed that mobile phones are causing too many problems including distractions in class as well as anti-social behavior, including cyberbullying, fighting, theft and increased negative interactions. Teachers are constantly dealing with students that are on their phones during class time and phones with data enable students to access all aspects of the internet including inappropriate and disturbing material. Added to this is our responsibility of providing a safe and secure environment for all students.

After the Board sought feedback from the school community, the only real concern whānau listed for wanting their child to have a mobile phone was being able to contact their child(ren) during the day. If parents need to contact their child(ren) during the day, they are able to call the school office.

For the students who bring in a mobile phone to school, the procedure is simple. If we see a mobile phone out, we will ask the student to hand it over and it will be taken to the school office. The office staff will contact parents / caregivers and arrange a pick up at the end of the day. If the student is uncooperative and it becomes a bigger problem, we will meet with whānau to discuss the situation. If your student requires a phone outside of school hours they can leave it at the school office. Phones will be placed in a locked cupboard and students can collect it at the end of the day.

Although staff may have their mobile phones at school, they will not be seen in the hallways or in class, unless there is an emergency.

By banning mobile phones, we hope to dial down the distractions and reduced the amount of 'ugly' behavior that we have to deal with on a daily basis. We want our students to be more socially and emotionally present in the classroom and focused on their learning.

We need to get back to the business of educating our future leaders. Students have plenty of mobile phone time outside of school and that is where mobile phones need to stay.

Ma mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga I te kātoa: Let's work together for the wellbeing of everyone.

Ngā mihi nui

Mike Houghton
Principal