

30 June 2022

Dear Parents

UPDATED RESTRICTIONS TO DIGITAL DEVICE USAGE AT WALCHA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Walcha Central School has recently updated its digital devices policy. The decision has been taken to assist students regulating how they use and access their mobile phones whilst at WCS, and to align with updated research that has highlighted the significant health dangers and negative educational impact associated with excessive mobile phone use by students.

As of Tuesday 19 July 2022, students will be required to secure their mobile phones in a Yondr pouch whilst at WCS. Students must switch off their phones between 8:50am and 3:10pm and keep them secured in the pouch, which is magnetically sealed. Each student in Years 7 to 12 will be issued with a pouch and it is their responsibility to bring it each day.

Students who are seen with a mobile phone at school will be asked to hand their phone to a head teacher who will take the device to the administration building. The student's parent / guardian will be required to collect the device on behalf of the student. If a student loses or maliciously damages their Yondr pouch they will be required to pay the \$35 replacement fee for a new one or hand their phone to the Deputy Principal each morning, who will store it securely for the day.

Exceptions to this policy will be made for students who require a digital device for health or educational reasons (according to specific health care / educational plans of a student, with appropriate documentation from a medical professional).

If you wish to contact your child while they are at school, please contact the school office on 02 6777 2777. **All requests for students to leave during school hours must be notified through the school office.**

We encourage you to take this opportunity to have a conversation with your child regarding the physical and wellbeing effects of excessive screen time, and the benefits of being engaged in uninterrupted learning.

Thank you for your support in this change.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Palmer
RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Amanda Cooper
PRINCIPAL