

Appendix B

["I wish we had done it five years ago": Phone ban a huge success | The Press](#)

Hornby High School head girl Sofia Meduric

"[The school is] almost louder during intervals and lunches." "People are getting to know each other better and making connections and memories that they will remember." The ban was partly a "weight off your shoulders", knowing you were unplugged for six hours. "We're not worrying about what someone has messaged us and we're more focused on our class, present moment, and being with our friends."

Hornby High School head boy Kush Patel

He noted the ban "has helped students focus more academically".

Hornby High School principal Iain Murray

"I have no doubt that it's going to have a positive effect on educational outcomes full stop, right across the board." He felt the ban had been "a win-win for everyone" and wished they had done it five years ago. "We're seeing kids in outside areas playing games, throwing balls, reading books and generally interacting more positively rather than having heads down on a phone." Thanks to the lack of social media the school was aware of no cyberbullying this month. "We're all quite stunned at the positive outcomes we are seeing so far."

Kaiapoi High School principal Jason Reid

Ban has gone "really smoothly". "[The] biggest change is the amount of face to face verbal communication, you can tell that it has amped up." Noise levels had increased at Kaiapoi alongside the number of students hiring sports gear and getting active, he said. "To be honest, I'm surprised how easy it has been."

Christchurch Boys' High School headmaster Nic Hill

Found the transition "really smooth" as students were focused in class and active during breaks anyway, he said. "[It was a] positive start to the year, there's been a few moments of relapse and teachers and boys have handled that really well."

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/350224484/schools-no-phones-policy-reaping-benefits>

Waitara High School Principal Daryl Warburton

Not having phones had got rid of a significant distraction in class and last year the academic results in Years 9 to 12 were up 15 to 20% across all levels. "The change is the most important thing I've done in 20 plus years of teaching - when looking at direct outcomes. The biggest thing for us is the academic outcomes. All the social stuff has been great as well." Students are talking to each other, playing bullrush, the playground equipment is well used, and the playground is noisy again, he says.

Waitara High School Year 12 student Baiden March

Says not having his phone did make it easier to do his school work. "You're a lot more focused."

Stratford High School principal Cam Stone

"It's a huge cultural shift, not just in the classroom but at break time. We're seeing games of touch rugby again, kids having fun, it's great. They're talking. There's a lot of noise out there. "It's been an overwhelming success for us."

Opunake High School principal Andrea Hooper Carr

"It's nothing new for us. [They had a similar policy for the last couple of years] The Government promoting it is great because it gives you another layer of support, but [it's] nothing new to our school."

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/508614/school-phone-ban-students-seem-to-be-okay-with-it>

Wellington East Girls College student Semhar Girmay

"When we first got the email I ran to my parents and was like 'what am I going to do, I can't do this'," she said. However, she said she was already paying more attention to school notices and concentrating better in lessons without her phone distracting her. "I'm not fully used to it, I still catch myself walking into school with it in my pocket, but I think with time it's actually fine."

Wellington East Girls College Year 9 Dean Shelley Vail

"I have seen no cell phones in class at all or walking around school on duty. A couple of behaviours I have seen that have changed is I've seen more students engaged in game-playing, things like playing cards, and we cycled all the Year 9s through the library as part of their orientation programme and the librarians have been thrilled with the number of books students are taking out and have noticed students are reading in the library much more than they noticed last year,"

Wellington East Girls College School principal Gael Ashworth

"We've only had two days where we've had the whole school back and the numbers of cell phones that we've had surrendered to staff have been quite low," she said. "Students seem to be okay with it. Anecdotally, my take on wandering around the school is there is a lot more face-to-face engagement between the students. Young people playing cards and chatting."

South Wellington Intermediate School principal Toby Stokes

[School banned phones 4 years ago] Stokes said a ban on phones was not hard to enforce and the school only encountered one or two students who desperately tried to hang on to their phones. "We wanted our students to be active participants in their learning and active in the playground as well,"

<https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/350102289/email-new-text-christchurch-girls-high-introduce-cellphone-ban>

Christchurch Girls' High School acting principal Peter Sawyer

"Two days into implementing the new rules, the level of noise during both morning and lunch break times from students had increased, with students talking, playing four square, table tennis, and skipping. If students need to be contacted, the school office will pass on messages, or the school encourages students to use their school email on their laptop to contact parents. The school wants its students to use lunchtimes to connect with each other, build relationships, and interact "face-to-face rather than digitally".

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/northland-schools-prepare-to-ban-cell-phones/36SI7A4XFFHBJPBVORNGA6CJA/>

Kaitiāiā mum Maria Parsons (son at Kaitiāiā Intermediate)

"It's a no-brainer. They're there to learn," she said. "As a parent, I think it's really good. They've actually got to interact more".

Kamo High School Principal Natasha Hemara

"She believes the rule would be an adjustment, but render positive impacts in the long run." [The school] had already implemented a policy of phones away during class time for the past three years that had had a "significant impact" on focus and learning in the classroom, she said.

Te Mānihi Tumuaki Northland Secondary Principals' Association chairman and Tikipunga High School principal Alec Solomon

"It is becoming an accepted norm for students not to have phones in their classes. It's part of a student's preparedness for work. It is an understanding of expectations. It will be no different to the expectations your employer has of you."

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/govts-new-phones-away-rule-northland-principals-respond/CPW7MLUBTRE4RE3CONGA2PKCTU/>

Te Mānihi Tumuaki Northland Secondary Principals' Association chair and Kamo Highschool Principal Natasha Hemara

She said the general consensus among secondary principals towards the new rule was positive. The rule was easy to implement at Kamo High School, which already had an existing policy, Hemara said. "Our community has been extremely supportive, and for us this has been an excellent example of a positive home/school partnership working together to focus on impacts that are positive for teaching and learning. "When we are dealing with a change that will positively support our core business of education then it is a win-all situation." The school had noticed more positive social interactions between students during break times and students becoming more involved in clubs and student-led initiatives, Hemara said. Schools had to deal with issues during the Covid pandemic, including the mandate around mask-wearing, so were now well equipped to manage other new processes and procedures efficiently, she said.

Whangārei Boys High School principal Karen Smith

"I'm not a huge fan of government mandating things like this because I think it's up to individual schools to manage what they do, but it has had a really positive impact on our school." Boys' High also already had a policy that phones be put away during class time but implemented in term one the additional rule for phones to be away during breaks. She was pleased with how "incredibly receptive" the school community had been. In fact, it had made her wonder why they hadn't extended the rule previously. "Phones were previously a problem for sure in our school." "We've had the occasional boy that breaks the rules but it's been phenomenally successful in terms of students interacting with each other positively. "It took some time to get used to - we're all used to pulling our phone out for various things so it did take a little bit of training but without exception, we've had positive feedback from teachers and quite remarkably positive feedback from many of the students as well and comments like, 'the teacher can get on with teaching without having to deal with cell phones'. Despite her dislike of the rule being mandated, she conceded it did take the pressure off the school in terms of defending and enforcing it. Because it was a government requirement, "there's not a lot a student or parent can do to argue with it."

[Radio New Zealand](#)

James Hargest College principal Mike Newell

"We're still having students that are breaking the rule as they do but nowhere near the number that we thought and teachers are reporting that it's going really well," he said.

"It's really noisy at break times now because kids are talking to each other and there's a lot more people going out to play, be active on the field. So we're putting in

more handball and four-square going back to some of those things. So already we can see it has a positive impact."

<https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/350162679/students-farewell-snapchat-over-60-schools-ban-phones>

Ashburton College deputy principal Hannibal Ikaiahifo

"The change was surprisingly easy. We prepared for a worst case scenario, but it never happened. The school's pastoral team had received no social media incidents last year and students had been more attentive and active."

Hillmorton High School principal Ann Brokenshire

[Have had ban for 3 years] "The classroom culture changed immediately as concentration increased and kids played, talked and read books more."

Rangi Ruru Girls' School acting principal Stephanie Barnett

Said they had found immense value" in the ban.

St Margaret's College principal Diana Patchett

She "praised the flow-on effects."

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/515423/school-phone-ban-how-effective-will-it-be#:~:text=Monday's%20first%20day%20of%20term,learning%20support%20or%20special%20circumstances>.

Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand (SPANZ) president and Papatoetoe High School principal Vaughan Couillaut

"I have to say that students have been extremely compliant in the first part of term one and during the backend when we stopped the 'education' and moved into the 'implementation'. People have seemed to have bought into it."

Christchurch's Burnside High School pupil

Said the policy was a good move as it removed "distractions from the class".

<https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/the-sunday-session/audio/kate-gainsford-nz-secondary-principals-council-chair-on-the-governments-cellphone-ban-coming-into-force/>

NZ Secondary Principals' Council chair Kate Gainsford

"Schools across the country already have measures in place - but these changes will make it easier to stop distractions. Parents have really appreciated the support, because they're often having the same kind of conversations in their own family home about the harmful effects and about limiting screentime, so having the adults working together is helpful."

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2024/04/ban-on-phones-in-new-zealand-schools-kicks-in-on-monday.html>

Secondary Principals Association (SPANZ)

The rule is "already working well" for teachers and schools who introduced the rule voluntarily at the start of Term 1. Schools who started the year with a ban are reporting "less distraction and more interaction in the playground, with a lot of children out playing sport or heading to the library".

<https://www.localmatters.co.nz/health/school-phone-ban-draws-mixed-reaction/>

Mahurangi College deputy principal Keith Tennant

"They are now engaged, more focused and interacting with other students, playing and talking. Year 13s in the study room are also studying more, where before they would be chatting on their phones."

Mahurangi College teacher Lori Yau

Said that the phone ban couldn't come soon enough and the amount of time teachers spent asking students to put their phones away had become unmanageable. She spoke about how the ban would "hopefully" enable students to develop better communication skills and reconnect with the reality of the world around them. She had noticed that there had been less physical fighting. "That's the whole point of the ban – to try to eliminate bullying especially online."