



# Boddington

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

November 2025

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School Star

## Community Update

### What's Happening

24 November - 5 December



Swimming Lessons

11 December



End of Year Awards

17 December



Year 6 & 10 Graduation

Correct at time of printing

#### BDHS POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS



##### Strive

Do your best.

##### Considerate

Be caring and mindful of others.

##### Responsible

Do what is expected and own your actions.

### From the Principal

## SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS: WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

New national rules will soon prevent young people under 16 from creating or holding accounts on certain social media platforms. This is not a ban on accessing online information — under-16s will still be able to view publicly available content — but it does limit the ability to log in or maintain accounts.

Platforms likely to be affected include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Reddit, YouTube, Threads, X and others. The full list is available at [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

### Why the change?

Social media platforms often use design features such as constant alerts, disappearing posts and algorithm-driven feeds that encourage longer screen time and can expose young people to upsetting or manipulative content. These features have been linked to increased stress, disrupted sleep and reduced concentration.

The delay to accessing accounts gives young people time to develop stronger digital literacy, emotional skills and healthy online habits — and to understand when and how to seek help if something goes wrong.

### How families can support young people

The eSafety Commissioner encourages open conversations at home about how children use social media, what may change under the new rules and how they can stay safe online. Importantly, there are **no penalties** for young people or parents — only for platforms that fail to meet their responsibilities.

Helpful resources for parents and carers are available through eSafety's **Social Media Age Restrictions Hub**, including:

1. FAQs explaining the changes
2. Free live webinars
3. The *Get Ready Guide* and conversation starters for families

Young people should be reminded that, regardless of their age or the platform involved, they can always reach out to a trusted adult if they experience something harmful online.



## Quick facts

- Age restrictions apply to major platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Reddit, YouTube, Threads and X.
- Publicly available content that does not require logging in will still be accessible.
- Schools using age-restricted platforms for communication may need to explore alternatives.
- Educational tools such as Google Classroom and YouTube Kids are **not** restricted. Teachers may also continue sharing YouTube videos that do not require login.
- Schools should follow their system or sector policies when using personal teacher accounts or sharing educational material.

For more information, practical advice and support for families and schools, visit **eSafety.gov.au**.

## PRODUCT SAFETY RECALL - COLOUR SAND PRODUCTS

We would like to draw the attention of our school community to an important **product safety recall** recently issued for several coloured sand products commonly used in early childhood, art, and sensory learning activities. The products affected include:

- **Educational Colours – Rainbow Sand**
- **Creatistics – Coloured Sand**
- **Kadink – Coloured Decorative Sand**

The supplier has advised that **some batches of these products may contain asbestos**. While this sounds concerning, it is important to reassure families that **independent testing has not detected any respiratory asbestos**—the type of fibres that can be breathed in. Based on current information, the **overall risk to children, staff, and community members is considered low**.

The **Department of Education**, in line with guidance from **Product Safety Australia**, has taken a cautious and proactive approach. All schools have been advised to remove these products from classrooms and storage areas while further assessments are undertaken. We have already completed this process at our school to ensure the ongoing safety of our learning environment.

Although these products are widely used in arts and crafts activities, the recall relates only to specific batches, however all coloured sand has been removed from our school as a precaution as directed by the Department of Education. The ACCC recall notice provides detailed information for parents who may have similar products at home. Families are encouraged to check any coloured sand products they may own and follow the instructions outlined on the official recall page.

You can access the full recall information via the **ACCC website**, which includes photos, batch details, safety advice, and recommended next steps.

We understand that news like this may raise questions or concerns. Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of our students is always our highest priority. We will continue to monitor advice from the Department of Education and Product Safety Australia and will share further updates with our community as they become available.

If you have any questions regarding this recall or our school's response, please feel free to contact the office. Thank you for your support as we work together to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

*Adrian Norton*

Principal