



CELL PHONE USAGE GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

International research indicates some key challenges with cell phones at school such as being a major distraction for our students. The following guidelines are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

GUIDELINES

Our approach is **'away for the day'**, meaning a student's cell phone should be **turned off and handed in to their teacher when they arrive at school, to be stored away during the school day.**

We strongly recommend students do not bring cell phones to school with them.

If students do make the decision to bring a cell phone to school, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cell phone.

Cell phones will be handed back to children at 2:45pm when school finishes.

If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the front office.

There may be times when students will be able to access and use their cell phones. However, this is the exception and will always be monitored by teaching staff.

Health and emergency situations

If a student does need to bring their cell phone for identified health reasons or learning support, e.g impaired communication, an exemption will be granted and use will be managed by the teacher.

In matters related to a student's immediate health and safety concerns, a parent or caregiver can apply at any time to the principal for a period of exemption, eg. medical conditions or protection issues.

Education outside the classroom (EOTC)

Students who are on a school camp will leave their cell phone at home for the duration.

If on an activity outside the school grounds and during school time, cell phones should still be left at school or home as outlined in these guidelines.

If a student needs their cell phone because of an alternative arrangement with regard to getting to or from the event, an exemption can be granted. Cell phones, however, must remain in bags at all other times during the day.

Inappropriate usage

Breaches of these cell phone guidelines include (but not limited to):

- not handing a cell phone in at the start of the day, eg. keeping it in their bag.
- using the cell phone when not permitted
- any sort of bullying, including online bullying
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- forwarding inappropriate messages or content.

Inappropriate usage will result in the cell phone being confiscated. It will be placed in the office to be collected by the student at the end of the day.

If a student breaches the guidelines multiple times, the cell phone will be confiscated and can only be retrieved by a parent or caregiver following a discussion with the Principal. Further consequences may be appropriate.

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