

OVERVIEW

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

The Government has introduced regulations that require all state schools and kura to have student phone rules in use. Rules must be in use as soon as possible in Term 1 2024 and no later than Term 2.

While our context and student use of phones is unique, we are obliged to follow the same rules as all other kura.

If a student brings their phone to school:

- They will be asked to leave it in a space designated by their teacher and turned off. For example, in their bag or locker.
- The school does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen personal digital devices brought to the school but investigates any issues as appropriate.
- Teachers may ask students to use their phones as a part of learning, as described below.

APPROPRIATE USAGE

A staff member may ask a student to use their phone in relation to the exceptions below.

A phone is needed for health reasons. For example,

- To monitor insulin levels

A phone is needed to help a student with a disability or learning support need. For example,

- To support communication
- To support calming / regulation where there is an agreed plan between the school and the whānau
- When on work experience as a part of a plan with the teacher and/or whānau
- As a part of a planned programme to support life skills, e.g. safe use of public transport, text club

A staff member requires students to use phones for a specific educational task or purpose. For example,

- To participate in a social communication group that includes the use of messaging tools or social media

PARENTS CONTACTING STUDENTS

If a parent/caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the school office on 351 6743.

INAPPROPRIATE USE

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device may include:

- using the device 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.

If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately, we will identify and assess the risk and take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of students, staff and the wider community.

A strategy in response to inappropriate use could be:

1. Request for the phone to be handed to the staff
2. If they consent, the phone is secured until the end of the day
3. If they do not consent, the student will be warned that if they continue to use their phone the parent will be contacted
4. After the parent contact, a new plan will be developed to support appropriate usage.

CONSULTATION, REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

These rules will go out to staff, students and whānau for consultation on March 5th.

Consultation feedback will be reviewed by the board on 25th March.

The new rules will be published on our website and implemented from Monday 29 April 2024.

These rules will be reviewed by the board in term 2, 2025.