



# Whangārei Intermediate School

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Next review: Term 4 2025

## Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

At Whangārei Intermediate School, our approach to cellphones and other personal digital devices supports student engagement and achievement. Personal digital devices include cellphones, which we manage according to government regulations, and other devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartwatches. Devices that are part of a school-approved **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** programme have separate conditions for use.

Students at Whangārei Intermediate School are not allowed to use their cellphones at school unless approved by the board for medical reasons.

### Cellphone regulations

To comply with government regulations, we ensure students do not use cellphones during school hours, including break times. Parents/Caregivers can request an exemption from the school if required. We allow exemptions for students to use cellphones if they are required for:

- a specific educational purpose approved by a teacher
- health needs (e.g. to monitor insulin levels)
- disability or learning support needs
- a special circumstance approved by the principal.

If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child during school hours, they should call the office.

Rules about cellphones and other personal digital devices made by the board are a **school bylaw**. The board consults with the school community when making or amending bylaws. We discuss school rules about personal digital devices at the beginning of the year, and throughout the year as needed.

### Device requirements at school

The school promotes safe and responsible use of digital technology. Students are required to comply with our digital technology policies and procedures if devices are brought to school. See **Digital Technology and Online Safety**.

If students bring personal digital devices (including cellphones) to school, the following requirements apply:

- Students may be able to take devices on EOTC events, but should check with the teacher or person in charge whether the device is allowed before the event starts.
- Students must turn off their phones during the school day. Phones are to be turned off before students arrive at school and can be turned back on once school has finished for the day.
- Students are encouraged to hand in their cellphones to the office or to their classroom teacher upon their arrival to school.

### Inappropriate use

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device may include:

- using a device when not allowed
- any sort of bullying, including ► **online bullying**
- sending or sharing inappropriate content
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission.

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device is managed according to the relevant school policy or procedure:

- **Behaviour Management**
- **Responding to Digital Incidents**
- **Surrender and Retention of Personal Digital Devices**

If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately, we confiscate it. After the student locks the device, we place it in the office to be collected at the end of the day. If a student is caught using their cellphone during break times, it will be confiscated and held in the office, to be collected by only a parent/caregiver.

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The principal assures the board that the school does not allow students to use cellphones during school hours, including break times, unless students have been granted an exemption. See **Self-Review and Board Assurances**.

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### Related topics

- **Digital Technology and Online Safety**
- **Personal Property and Insurance**
- **Bullying**
- **Public Sharing of Personal Information**
- **Recording Photos, Video, and Sound**
- **EOTC Consent**

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