



Cell Phone Guidelines

The New Zealand Government has instructed the Ministry of Education to implement a ban on cell phone use for students during school hours. This includes lunch and break times.

We do not recommend that students bring cellphones to school. Cell phones are not necessary to have during the day. However, we understand that some parents/caregivers want their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school.

Guidelines:

- The school does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen phones.
- If students choose to bring a cell phone, it must be switched off and left in the students school bag at the start of each day. They are not to be visible during the school day.
- All smart watches are considered an extension of a smartphone and must be set to flight mode, silent or do not disturb during school hours.
- All headphones are considered an extension of a smartphone and are not to be used on the school grounds or in the classroom unless a teacher has signalled they are required for a learning task.
- If cell phones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member.
- Cell phones may not be used at break times.
- In an emergency, parents should contact the main office who will quickly convey a message to students. Students falling ill during the day must report to the main office, who will contact parents/caregivers.
- If a Parent/Caregiver needs to contact their child during the day, they may call or email the office.

Consequences:

1st incident: The phone will be confiscated, labelled and held in the school office until the end of the school day. Student may pick it up then. Parents will be emailed.

2nd incident: The phone will be confiscated, labelled and held in the school office. Parents will be contacted to collect the phone at their convenience.

3rd incident: The student and caregiver will be required to attend a meeting with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss the continual breaches and what strategies can be implemented to ensure this does not continue.

Continued violation of the cell phone policy becomes a persistent defiance discipline issue.