



Operational Policy 18 Cellphone Policy

International research indicates some key challenges with cellphones 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 cyber-bullying. Our approach is “away for the day”, meaning the device should be turned off, and handed in to the teacher to be locked away during the school day.

We strongly recommend students do not bring these devices to school with them. If a student does bring their cellphone for emergency contact or health reasons, these must be handed to the teacher to be locked away during the day.

It is important to note that if students do bring a cellphone to the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone.

We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school, cellphones will be available for students during the afterschool pick up time. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the front office, or if the office is closed, the principal.

Appropriate usage

If students wish to use their phone during the day they may ask their teacher. However, this is the exception and will always be monitored by teaching staff.

Learning activities

If cellphones 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. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply.

Health and emergency situations

Students with additional learning needs who use cellphones in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn will be granted an exemption. 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 (e.g., medical conditions or protection issues).

Education outside the classroom (EOTC)

Whilst on school trips, phones should be switched off and placed in their bags. Permission may be sought to use the camera, but other mobile features should not be accessed.

Inappropriate usage

If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately or without permission during the school day, we will confiscate it. After the student locks the device, we will place it in the office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian from the office, or if the office is unattended, the Principal.

Breaches of the cellphone rules include (but not limited to):

- 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 a student makes the decision to inappropriately use a cellphone, the cellphone will be confiscated and can only be retrieved by a parent or caregiver following a discussion with the student's teacher.

Please note with all exemptions and exceptions, appropriate usage guidelines and other relevant school rules still apply.

Signed:



Presiding Member: Peter Wilding
(Name)

On behalf of, and with the authority of the School Board on Date: 19/2/2024

Next review date: February 2026