



## Student Cell Phone Policy

### Rationale

DNI is committed to supporting strong engagement with teaching and learning and promoting respectful and positive relationships, and communication between peers that reflects our school values. More and more we are concerned that not only are mobile phones not enhancing our children's lives, but are potentially damaging.

We are certainly not seeing any educational benefit to students

having access to phones at school and more and more time is being wasted in managing phone issues. As such students are not permitted to have a phone at school.

We know that some whānau want students to have access to a phone before and after school so we will store phones for students during the day. While we'll do our best to manage this, whānau should be aware that we are not willing to take responsibility for loss or damage. [Acceptable Internet Use Statement.doc](#)

### Objectives

- To reflect current government regulations about student cell phones in school
- To ensure that cell phones and related digital devices do not distract from learning
- To support positive relationships and face-to-face communication skills

### Expectations and Limitations

- Our definition of 'cell phone' pertains to any device, other than a computer, that allows communication via text message or phone call (such as a smartwatch for instance).
- If students have a smartwatch then parents must ensure that the communication functions are turned off between the hours of 8.45am and 2.55pm
- While computers (and in some cases tablets) are acceptable at school, students are strictly prohibited from using any form of 'chat' function
- Cell phones can be brought to school but must be put in the box supplied by the teacher, which will be stored during the day
- Phones should be left at home for overnight EOTC trips
- The only time when a cell phone or earbuds/headphones can be used at school is to support learning or health needs. In this situation, the Principal will authorise this use by the student, upon recommendation by a health professional
- The school takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of any student cell phone brought to school
- Using phones at other times in the day will result in the phone being removed from the student and we'll expect a parent to come and collect it from the office. We appreciate that this is inconvenient so please do discuss this with your child to ensure that they uphold their responsibility around this.

If you need to contact your child urgently during school time please phone the school office.

### Related Documentation

- Government regulations "Phones away for the day"

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/digital-technology/cellphones/>

- Government legislation

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0294/latest/LMS927327.html#LM5927326>