

Hurunui College Cell Phone Policy

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 cyber-bullying. Our approach is “**away for the day**”, meaning cell phones either do not come with the student to school, or are switched off and left in bags during the full school day.

For Year 1-8 students, cell phones must be kept at home. If in a one off situation students do require their cell phone for use either before or after school, parents must contact the classroom teacher and let them know. In this case, the cell phone must be handed in to the school office for safe keeping prior to the start of the day bell, where it can be collected at the end of the school day.

Year 9-13 students are asked to manage their own cell phone by keeping phones switched off and away all day, in their school bags, this includes during break times.

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

If students need to contact home in an emergency, they must do so via the school office, not their cell phone. Parents and caregivers should also call the office if they need to contact their child during the school day.

Cell Phones ‘Away for the Day’ Expectations

We encourage all students to self-manage their devices in a way that upholds our school values. Any circumstance where students use their devices at school is considered a breach.

The first breach will result in the cell phone being confiscated for the rest of the school day and parent/caregiver will be notified by email or phone. The device will then be collected by the student after school and the inappropriate use recorded in Edge.

In the case of any subsequent breaches, the cell phone will be confiscated and kept in the school office until collected by the parent/caregiver. Parents will be notified by phone and the inappropriate use recorded in Edge.

Cell Phones 'Away for the Day' Exemptions

Learning activities

On rare occasions, if cell phones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the discretion of the Deputy Principals or Principal. In this situation, the cell phone's use will be supervised by a staff member. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply.

Inappropriate usage of the cell phone includes (but not limited to):

- accessing content unrelated to learning activity
- any sort of bullying, including online bullying
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- forwarding inappropriate messages or content

Health and Special Circumstances

Students with additional learning needs who may need to use a cell phone in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn may be granted an exemption on application to the Principal.

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)

Students in Year 9-13 may be allowed to take certain digital devices on EOTC activities at the discretion of the teacher in charge.

Staff use of Cell Phones

Staff will role model appropriate and respectful cell phone use at all times.

This includes:

- no personal use of cell phones during class time, meetings or duty times
- no personal use of cell phones when around students

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