

Primary student use of mobile phones and personal devices

Purpose

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of a separate Bring Your Own Device arrangement. This policy applies while students are at school, or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours and on the school bus.

Mobile phone use for primary school students

The department's position is that primary aged students cannot use their mobile phones and personal devices at school during school hours. The department and the school recognise that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety while travelling
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

During the school day students are not permitted to access or use their mobile phones or other personal devices. Students must switch off or mute their devices before storing them at the beginning of the school day. They will not be able to access their device until the end of the school day.

Storage of personal devices

Students will switch their device off or to silent and hand into the front office staff between 8:25am and 8:45am. (or as soon as they arrive at School)

The staff member who receives the device, will put it into a labelled bag and it will be securely stored in the Front Office until the child collects their device at the end of the school day (3:10pm).

No electronic devices to be stored in Classrooms, School Bags or with the student.

If the student does not comply

If a student does not hand in their mobile phone at the beginning of the day, it will be confiscated by a teacher or leadership and stored in the office until 3:10 (the end of the school day). The student may collect the device from the office. A message will be sent to parent/caregiver to inform them.

Student will be given a rethink.

Subsequent breaches of this will result in the device being confiscated and stored in the office until a parent / caregiver can collect the device from school.

Student will be given a rethink

Leadership will use their discretion in regards to consequences if a student continues to breach the policy or if the misuse of the device is of a more serious nature.

Roles and responsibilities

Principal

Make sure:

- this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff, and families
- there is a process for regular review of the policy
- secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff.
- processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use by all members of the school community.

Enforce the policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Consider requests for exemptions from the policy from parents on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

School staff

Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment. Take steps to minimise distractions from the non-educational use of personal devices in the learning environment at times when a device is being used by a student in line with an approved exemption or in circumstances where students' devices are stored in the classroom.

Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.

Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.

Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location and are returned to the student (or their parent).

Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their children.

Students

Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.

If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with an exemption under this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.

Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.

Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

Parents

Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.

Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school). Encourage their child to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.

Recognise the important role they play in supporting their child to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Communication and review

Staff have discussed this policy and localised it to Balaklava Primary School in consultation with the BHS policy to ensure some level of consistency.

SRC discussed the storage and misuse of devices sections, took it to class meetings and then made a proposal back to staff.

The policy was shared in the BPS Newsletter with community having an opportunity to provide feedback. Governing Council were also given the opportunity to provide feedback.

Feedback was acted upon and once again shared with staff for agreement.

The policy will now be taken back to Governing Council for ratification.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed mid 2022 and then biannually after that time.

The policy will be accessible on our Website, Skoolbag and included in all new enrolment packs.

This policy is effective from 19th July 2021