

Raglan Area School Procedure: Cell Phone Expectations 2024

Rationale:

In alignment with the Government School Phone Ban mandate (January 2024), students are not permitted to bring cellphones to school. Recent international research along with feedback from staff and students in our own school clearly indicates that cell phones at school are a major distraction for our students. Cellphones have been used inappropriately by students in our school in the following ways;

- Failing to hand in the cell phone at the start of a class as requested;
- Intimidating and bullying others, including sexting;
- Videoing students fighting and participating in other inappropriate behaviour;
- Taking photos or videos of students or staff without their permission;
- Accessing social media and gaming sites during class time;
- Producing disrespectful messages to or about staff or other students;
- Forwarding or storing photos or videos taken illegally.

This procedure is designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction.

Guidelines

1. The only digital devices required at school are the chromebook or laptop that is requested in the stationery list for Years 7-13 students.
2. Cell phones and ear buds are not required or permitted.
3. The school has landline phones. Parents/caregivers will contact the main office if they need to convey a message to their child. Teachers and Office staff will make phone contact with parents/caregivers when necessary.
4. If students do make the decision to bring a cell phone to school they do so at their own risk. Raglan Area School is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cell phone.
5. Consequences for bringing a phone to school will be enacted with students who breach this procedure.
 - The Teacher asks for the phone/earbuds and they are sent to the school office. This is recorded by office staff. The student may collect at the end of the school day.
 - The Teacher has a conversation with the student and enters notes into SMS Edge Pastoral.
 - If the student is non-compliant in handing the phone / earbuds to the teacher, the teacher will follow school expectations and involve the Pastoral Lead and/or a Deputy Principal as appropriate.
 - Repeated non-compliance (3 times) will result in home contact to enact next steps which will include a stand-down.
6. Parents and Caregivers may apply for a [Cellphone Exemption](#) for their child. This request must be made to the Principal. If a student has an exemption for a phone, the phone will be handed into the office on arrival to school. The phone can be collected at the end of the day.

Signed: 

Dated: 1 February 2024