

Raglan Area School Procedure: Cell Phone Expectations 2025

Rationale:

In alignment with the Government School Phone Ban mandate (January 2024), students are not permitted to bring cellphones at any time into the Raglan Area School site buildings and/or grounds.

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, or delivering to the office, the teacher will phone the office staff to check that the phone/earbuds have been handed in, record the incident on EDGE and then 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 by the Principal or a Deputy Principal to enact next steps which will include a stand-down.
 - Internal review of all behaviours and then if appropriate an Internal Stand-down with Whaanau teacher having the authority to request that the student shows them the contents of their school bag and pockets in any clothing that they are wearing.
6. Parents and Caregivers may apply for a [***Cellphone Exemption***](#) for their child on site. 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.

7. Please note that these expectations are also applicable when our students are involved in any off site learning activities as students of Raglan Area School e.g. Alternative Education programmes (see Appendix A) external camps, WINTEC, sports or cultural events.

Signed: 	Dated: 26 February 2025
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Phones Away for the Day- Alternative Education - MOE Publication Monday 17 June 2024

The duty to prohibit the use or access of mobile phones applies to boards of all State schools and the students enrolled with them. As students are still enrolled with their school while they are attending Alternative Education, the prohibition on the use of mobile phones will apply to them.

However, the Education (School Boards) Regulations 2020 allow exceptions to the prohibition for individual students where the school board is satisfied that the student needs to use or access a mobile phone

- for a purpose connected with the student’s health; or
- for the purpose of assisting the student in connection with any disability or learning support need; or
- when a registered teacher determines that the student needs to use or access a mobile phone for a specific educational task or purpose; or
- the principal determines that there are special circumstances that make it necessary for the student to use or access a mobile phone (for example, the student is a teenage parent).

Note that a school board can delegate their decisions to the principal of the school or to any other staff member employed by the board.

What this means:

If a student attending Alternative Education has needs related to health, disability or learning support that require access to a mobile phone, **the board of the students’ enrolling school** can authorise the student’s use of their mobile phone to meet those needs. The board can delegate this decision to any staff member that the board employs, including the principal or a teacher of the school.

If the student’s school is the managing school of the Alternative Education contract and the school board employs the Alternative Education staff, then this decision can be delegated to a member of the Alternative Education staff.

If the nature of the learning or the environment at the Alternative Education provider requires access to a mobile phone, the principal of the student’s school can determine that the student is exempt from the prohibition while they are attending Alternative Education due to these special circumstances.

Where a student needs to use or access their mobile phone for a specific educational task or purpose, this use can be authorised by any registered teacher. This includes a registered teacher of the Alternative Education provider, the student’s enrolling school or the managing school for the Alternative Education contract.

Schools and Alternative Education providers should work together to determine what will work best for students and their learning in line with the regulations.