

Cellphone Policy

Rationale:

International research indicates some key challenges with cellphones at school, such as being a major distraction for our students. The Government has introduced regulations that require all state schools and kura to have student phone rules in place. The rules set out below are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

Balmoral School does not encourage students to bring cellphones to school. These are not necessary to have during the day, but we understand that some parents/caregivers like their children to have a device to communicate with them before or after school.

The School does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen cellphones brought to school but may investigate as appropriate.

If a student brings a cellphone to school, the rules set out below will apply. Any changes to our school rules will be communicated to students and our school community.

Rules:

1. If a parent/guardian needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the school office.
2. If a cellphone is brought to school, it must be turned off and students will be advised of where the phone is to be stored for the duration of the school day.
3. Cellphones must not be used onsite during the hours of 8:15am and 3.00pm, including morning tea and lunchtimes.
4. Smart watches are not permitted to be used as a communication or entertainment tool during the school day.
5. Cellphones may not be taken on Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) events.
6. On school property or the school network, students are expected to abide by the Cyber Safety Agreement which is signed by parents [CyberSafety Use Agreement](#).

In the event of non-compliance with the above, the following procedures will apply:

- Cellphone will be taken away from the student for the remainder of the school day.
- Parent/caregiver of the student will be contacted by their teacher or member of the school's senior leadership team if this is a regular occurrence.
- In the event of multiple acts of non-compliance, further consequences may be put in place such as the cellphone being taken away from the student, to be collected at the end of the school day from the office only by a parent or guardian.

Exemptions:

The parent or caregiver of any student requiring an exemption regarding cellphone use needs to contact the Principal or member of the school's senior leadership team.

Exemptions may be considered where:

- a phone is needed for health/medical reasons (for example, to monitor insulin levels);
- a phone is needed to help a student with a disability or learning support need (for example, to assist with impaired communication);
- a teacher requires students to use phones for a specific educational task or purpose (for example, for a class assignment); or
- the Principal decides that they are needed for special circumstances.

If cellphones are required for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member.

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

Date of adoption of Policy	18 June 2024	Balmoral School
Date of Revision		Cellphone Policy
Revision No.		
Approved by	Board of Trustees	
Signed (Chairperson)		