Device Guidelines

Rationale & Purpose for Device Management for Students:

At South Island School, we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our students by integrating our core values of respect, self-awareness, nurture, open-mindedness, and commitment. One way we strive to uphold these values is by providing a supportive and enriching learning environment among students in school.

Research has shown that excessive mobile phone use contributes to heightened anxiety levels among students. By implementing measures such as phone-free schools, we demonstrate our commitment to fostering self-awareness and promoting healthier habits. By limiting phone distractions, we create an environment that respects the importance of focused, uninterrupted learning and academic responsibilities.

Additionally, by encouraging face-to-face interactions and direct engagement with peers, we nurture the development of important social skills. Students have the opportunity to form genuine friendships, enhance their social development and embrace open-mindedness through diverse interactions. Our aim is to create a balanced relationship with technology, empowering students to explore the real world, engage in independent activities, and cultivate their passions.

By integrating these values into our approach to limiting device usage, we strive to create a positive and impactful educational experience at South Island School. We believe that by prioritizing respect, self-awareness, nurture, open-mindedness, and commitment, we can empower our students to thrive academically, socially, and personally, making a difference in their lives.

Limiting device usage for students has the following benefits:
- Enables prioritization of academic responsibilities
- Promotes deeper engagement in learning activities
- Encourages the formation of genuine friendships
- Enhances social development through direct engagement with peers
- Helps students focus on their studies
- Improves their concentration
- Develops important social skills through face-to-face interactions
- Reduces distractions
- Minimizes anxiety-inducing factors from excessive phone usage

Definition of Devices in our context:
- Devices include phones, laptops, iPads, smart watches, headphones/earbuds and potentially other electronic devices that can access the internet and provide various functionalities.

- Gaming devices are not permitted in school, as they can be a significant source of distraction and may not align with the educational environment.

Device Guidelines for Students
- The School Day is considered from 7:50am to 3:15pm (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday; Tuesday 9:50 to 3:15pm; Friday 7:50 to 12:55pm)
- Phones
  - Y7-13: No phone usage on campus during the school day
  - The exception to this is when the students are allowed to call home with staff permission (i.e. In the medical room when ill or when students have early dismissal)
- Smart Watches
  - Y7-13: No smartwatch usage on campus during the school day
- Laptops
  - During Lessons
    - Y7-13 Students will need their laptops for lessons (Y7 will start using them after MaD week)
  - Breaks, Lunches
    - Y7-9: No Laptop Usage
    - Y10-11: No Laptop Usage. Except in designated venues for academic studies only.
    - Y12-13: Laptop usage in designated areas
    - Tuesday (9:50am to 3:15pm) and Friday (7:50am to 12:55pm)
- Tablets
  - During Lessons
    - Y7-13 Students will need their laptops for lessons (except year 7s who will start using them after MaD week)
  - Breaks, Lunches
    - Y7-9: No Tablet Usage
    - Y10-11: No Tablet Usage. Except in designated venues for academic studies only.
    - Y12-13: Tablet usage in designated areas
    - Tuesday (9:50am to 3:15pm) and Friday (7:50am to 12:55pm)

- Earbuds/headphones
  - Y7-13: Students are not allowed to use earbuds/headphones when moving around the school premises. The discretion to allow earbuds/headphones in lessons may lie with the staff members, but it is recommended they be used solely for teaching and learning purposes.
- Gaming Devices
  - Y7-13: Gaming devices are not allowed in school
- Social Media
  - Y7-11: Students should not use social media during the school day
  - Y12-13: Students should avoid using social media during the school day

- ○ The school has intentionally limited access to some social media sites for all students
- ● Venue Usage
  - ○ Year 10-11: Students are permitted to use laptops during break and lunch in the HALL to support their studies.
  - ○ Year 12-13: Students are permitted to use laptops during breaks, lunch and free periods in the Career Centre, Diploma Centre and their own Tutor Group classrooms to support their studies or to relax. They may also use them in the library for their studies.

Device Management and Positive Support::
- ● Students will be responsible for securing their own devices and are required to store their devices in designated locations, such as lockers or bags, during the school day.
- ● The Positive Support Framework (PSF) will be utilized to ensure consistent use of the guidelines. Each instance of policy violation should be logged, and persistent offenses may result in consequences.
- ● If students are unable to follow the guidelines and do not respond to the support and interventions provided, the school has the option to temporarily confiscate a student's phone for the duration of the school day. Decisions regarding the temporary confiscation or secure storage of phones will be made by the Family Leadership Team.
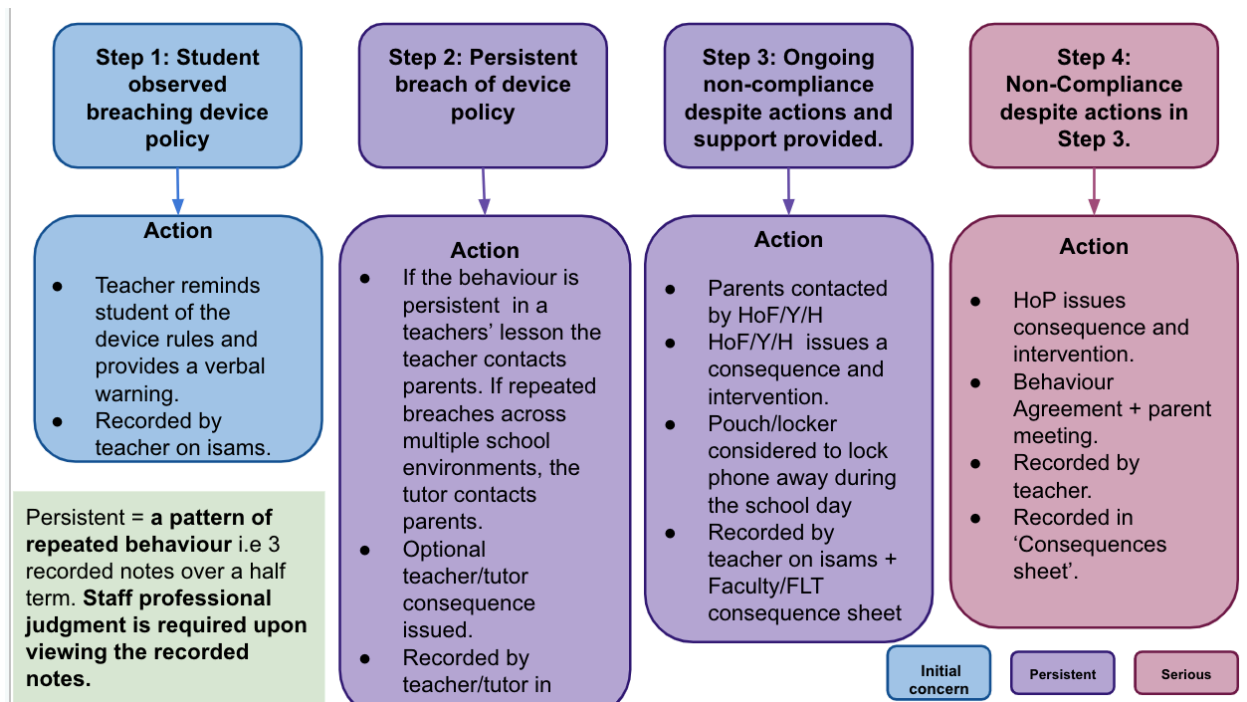
Teachers as Role Models
- ● Teachers will not be expected to follow the same policy guidelines, since teachers need to consider work-related purposes and the health & safety of the community, but there

should be good role modeling involved. There will be no earbuds/headphones usage in the school except in their own departmental office.