

3-5-6 CELL PHONE POLICY

BACKGROUND:

Cell Phones and devices with similar capacities are a common possession of school students. The use of these devices in the school environment creates several concerns. They are disruptive in the classroom and can negatively impact children's and students' mental health, engagement, and learning; the camera and text/mail capabilities have the potential to violate the privacy of students and staff; they are also an accessible temptation for cheating.

In addition, access to social media, while it has its values, can detrimentally impact student well-being, especially with constant access.

POLICY STATEMENT:

PCS is committed to:

- the Provincial requirement (FOIP) to provide an environment in which a person's privacy is protected as much as possible. Cell phones in school represent a potential for violating privacy.
- the removal of cheating temptation which cell phones present.
- an environment which minimizes learning distractions. The ringing/vibrations of a cell phone disrupt focus and attention.
- a safe environment, where students can be free from bullying, including cyberbullying

General Restrictions:

- Personal mobile devices are to be powered down and kept in container in a locked drawer in the classroom between 8:40 am until 3:15 pm.
- Access to social media (websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking) via the school's network will be restricted through our filtering system.

Limitations:

- Limited use of personal mobile devices will be permitted for educational purposes or to support special learning needs, as determined by the Leadership Team.
- Limited use of personal mobile devices will be permitted for health or medical reasons, as determined by the Leadership Team.
- Limited access to social media may be permitted for educational purposes, as determined by the Leadership Team.

Consequences:

1st offense: student will be asked to put phone away and reminded of policy

2nd offense: student's phone will be confiscated until the end of the day and returned to the student at the office; parents will be notified.

3rd offense and following: student's phone will be confiscated and parents will be notified to pick up the phone from the office.

Roles:

Staff:

Staff are responsible for being role models in the school and classroom. They should be modeling appropriate behavior and use of personal mobile devices and social media. We recognize that social media, such as Remind App, can be used for school communication. As such, professional use of devices is understandable during appropriate times (e.g. recess, lunch, prep).

Parents:

Parents have a significant role in the upbringing of their children. We value and depend on their guidance. They should support the school by encouraging their children to follow the Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media policy. In addition, they can support the school should their child commit any offenses toward this policy.

Students:

Students have the right to a good, safe education. As such, it is important for them to remain focused on their studies and to learn good habits as it relates to personal mobile devices and social media. While these may be appropriate to use at different times during the school day and year, students should follow the advice of their teachers and school leaders to help them recognize these.