



## **MICHAEL PARK SCHOOL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **CELL PHONES**

#### **Rationale**

The Government requires all schools to implement a cellphone policy.

At Michael Park School we are well aware that cell phones can distract students from learning during class time and reduce important face-to-face interaction during school breaks. We also understand the negative impact cell phones and devices are having on the social connections and interactions of our young people. Our akonga need these essential socialisation skills as part of their development and, as a result, the prohibited use of cell phones and devices has been standard practice throughout our kura for a number of years.

#### **Guidelines**

##### **Cell phone policy for Michael Park School**

1. Our approach towards “away for the day” means that cellphones either do not come with the student to school or are switched off and kept in a student’s bag for the duration of the full school day, unless directed by a teacher.
2. The cell phone policy also extends to other digital devices (e.g. laptops, Chromebooks, iPads). Devices can only be used during class times in the library or inside classrooms whilst supervised by a teacher.
3. It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a cellphone to school, they do so at their own risk. The school will not be responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone.

##### **Cell phones “away for the day” expectations**

Our students are encouraged to regulate themselves and develop healthy personal relationships. In circumstances where a member of staff sees a student with their cell phone out or they have earphones/ear pods in, the process will be;

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: | The cell phone and/or earphones/ear pods are confiscated from the student and they can pick up the device from their Deputy Principal at the end of the day                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence: | The cell phone and/or earphones/ear pods are confiscated from the student and parents will be requested to pick up the device from the school and meet with the Deputy Principal. |

In the event of ongoing breaches of the cell phone policy or continuous defiance, normal school discipline procedures will apply and could result in further consequences such as lunchtime detentions, after-school detentions, or further parent meetings.

**Exceptions**

- 1. There will be a small number of students with particular learning or physical/mental health needs who will require some access to cellphones and/or earphones/ ear pods. These cases will be dealt with on an individual basis to find a solution that meets the needs of the student and the objectives of this policy.
- 2. Parents who believe an allowance needs to be made in meeting a student’s needs should discuss the situation with the school SENCO and Deputy Principal.
- 3. There may be times during lessons where a teacher decides that headphones or cell phones are needed for an educational purpose, and they will have authority to override the policy for the duration of that particular activity.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- *Can I listen to music?*  
You can use your learning device (Laptop/Chromebook) with headphones or ear pods to listen to music or for learning purposes when a teacher approves. Otherwise, headphones or ear pods should be kept from class.
- *What about my smartwatch?*  
Any smartwatch with cellular capabilities may be worn during regular school hours apart from during assessments.
- *What if my parents/caregivers need to contact me in an emergency?*  
All communications should go through reception in an emergency.
- *Why is my teacher on their phone?*  
Teachers will use their phones for administrative purposes where the situation requires a cell phone. For example, taking the roll, or receiving a call or message from reception, the principal or deputy principal. Teachers are required to have their cell phones on and close in case of an emergency (i.e., lockdown)

**Legislation and Supporting Documentation**

Education and Training Act 2020  
 Education (Surrender, Retention, and Search) Rules 2013  
 Digital Media & Cyber Safety Policy

Policy type:	<b>Management Policy</b>	NZSBA Governance Framework:
Date reviewed:	<b>03/04/2024</b>	Signed for MPS Board: 