



CELLPHONE POLICY - LEARNERS

SUMMARY

- Minimise disruption
- Safety and well-being of learners
- Authority to conduct searches
- Acceptable usage
- Rules for cellphones brought to school
- Contraventions

This policy is intended to minimise disruption to the education process by avoiding the inappropriate use of cellphones by learners, which can distract them from their principal reason for being at school.

This policy is based on the premise that the school is responsible for the safety and well-being of learners while at school and that the authority of the school to conduct searches, where there is reasonable suspicion that the learner may be in violation of school rules, overrides the learner's right to privacy.

1) Acceptable usage

Cellphones and similar devices may be used in the classroom at the educator's request to enhance the learning process. Such usage is at the discretion of the educator.

Should there be valid grounds for such usage, for example to display photographic evidence, music etc. that is required to enhance a project or research assignment, the parent or guardian must send a written explanation of such grounds for consideration by the school.

2) Rules for cellphones that are brought to school

They must be switched off immediately the school premises are entered.

They must be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the school day to be securely locked away.

The device must be clearly marked with the learner's name.

The device may only be switched on once the learner leaves the school premises.

A teacher may request that the device be switched on in an emergency or if circumstances dictate.

PLEASE NOTE

The school will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any cellphones or other electronic communication devices.

The school reserves the right to have the relevant authorities search the content of any such devices should they have reason to suspect that cyber-bullying is taking place, or any other inappropriate use is being made of these devices that may contravene the school rules and policies, or the law.

3) Contraventions

Failure to abide by these rules will result in the cellphone or device being confiscated and handed in to the office for the day. Parents will be required to collect the cellphone on behalf of their child.

The learner will no longer have permission to bring their phone to school for the rest of the term.

The learner will be required to approach management at the start of the new term to request permission to bring their device to school, and the learner will need to agree in writing to abide by the rules as laid out by the school.