



Wesley College

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Re: Phones 'Away for the Day'

Dear Parents/Caregivers

As you are hopefully aware from the news the Government has introduced regulations that require all state schools and kura to have student phone rules in use. This is to support student's wellbeing and their learning by reducing distractions.

The regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds.

This term we have been consulting with staff and students about what this means for our College. Attached to this document you will find the procedure that will be implemented from next term.

How can you, as parents and caregivers, support this change?

- Encourage your child to leave their phones in the hostel if they are a boarder
- Encourage day students to hand in their phones to the office during the school day or leave it switched off in their bag
- Do not call your child's phone during school hours. You can contact the office (09 237 0224) if you need to contact your child during the day

Many students use their phones as part of their learning. A big way to help your child with their learning is to purchase a chromebook or laptop. Due to a lack of care resulting in damage to the school devices, we do not have enough devices for students to use. Chromebooks can be purchased through the school; please visit our school website for further information.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the 'Away for the Day' procedure, please contact Deputy Principal, Charlotte Saunders at charlottes@wesley.school.nz

Yours faithfully

Dr Brian Evans
PRINCIPAL

Wesley College: Phones 'Away for the Day'

International research indicates some key challenges with cellphones at school such as being a major distraction for our students. These rules are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying. Our approach is “**away for the day**”, meaning cellphones either do not come with the student to school, or are kept securely in the hostel (boarders) or the school office (day students) during the normal school day.

We accept that some students may choose to carry a mobile device during the normal school day but require they are not used during school hours. Devices should be kept switched off and should not be used when moving around the school site between 8.15 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.

It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a cellphone to the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cell phone.

If students need to contact home for any reason, they should do so via the school office. Parents and caregivers should call the office if they need to contact their child during the school day.

Cellphones 'away for the day' expectations

We encourage all students to self-manage their devices in a way that upholds our Kairangi values. In circumstances where usage has breached the school cellphone rules the result will be confiscation of the phone by the staff member.

The phone will be handed into the office as soon as possible and a receipt will be issued. The inappropriate use will be recorded in KAMAR and the parents/caregivers will be notified by the office.

All confiscated devices will be kept in a secure location in a clearly labelled bag.

Confiscated devices may be retrieved from the office on a Friday between 3.15 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. only.

Breaches of the cellphone rules include (but not limited to):

- using the device when not permitted
- any sort of bullying, including online bullying
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- forwarding inappropriate messages or content.

As this procedure is embedded, for the first two weeks of Term 2 2024, any breach of these rules will result in the phone being confiscated as per the above; however, the student will be permitted to retrieve their phone from the office at the end of the school day between 3.15 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

From the start of week 3 the grace period will end and the above expectations will be enforced.

Cellphones 'away for the day' exemptions and exceptions

Learning activities

If cellphones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member. Students will be issued a permit by the classroom teacher for the period of time where phones are required. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply.

Health and emergency situations

Students with additional learning needs who use cellphones in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn will be granted an exemption. In matters related to a student's immediate health and safety concerns, a parent or caregiver can apply at any time to the principal for a period of exemption (e.g., medical conditions or protection issues).

Education outside the classroom (EOTC)

Students may take certain digital devices on EOTC activities but should check whether their device is allowed before the activity commences. Usage will be at the discretion of teachers and other adult supervisors.

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

Note: students should not be accessing hostel common rooms or sleeping areas during instruction so these do not need to be monitored for compliance.