

HAMILTON BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICIES

POLICY: CELL PHONE POLICY

POLICY NO: 1.16

AIMS:

1. To ensure that 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 course or visit outside the school grounds.

POLICY:

1. Cellphones 'away for the day' expectations.

Students are always encouraged to regulate themselves and develop healthy in person relationships. In circumstances where a member of staff considers the device to be harmful, disruptive, or distracting influence or that usage has breached the school cellphone rules the result will be a detention.

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.

2. Cellphones 'away for the day' exemptions.

Schools must allow students to use or access a phone when:

- a phone is needed for health reasons (for example, to monitor insulin levels); or
- a phone is needed to help a student with a disability or learning support need (for example, to assist with impaired communication); or
- a teacher requires students to use phones for a specific educational task or purpose (for example, for a class assignment); or
- the Headmaster decides that they are needed for special circumstances (for example, the student is a teenage parent).

3. Parent/Caregiver and Student Responsibilities

If a parent/caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call Student Services.

If a student brings a personal digital device to our school, the following guidelines apply:

- The school does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen personal digital devices brought to the school but investigates any issues as appropriate.
- During the school day, devices should be kept turned off and out of sight.
- If personal digital devices are used for a learning activity, this is at the discretion of the teacher, and their use is supervised by school staff.

NOTES:

1. This is not a device ban. There are still times when devices can be used.
2. Device refers to all electronic devices (e.g. phones, laptops, headphones, and gaming devices).
3. Devices can be used before and after school on school grounds.
4. The consequence of using devices during intervals and lunchtime is a litter detention.
5. The consequence of using devices during class time without the permission of a staff member is a faculty detention.
6. Contacting home should be done before or after school, or through the Student Services Centre. This has not changed and is in the current policy.

DATE OF REVIEW/APPROVAL: APRIL 2024