

# Pakuranga College Cell phone Policy

**Date Implemented:** February 2024

**Next Review Date:** February 2027

## Background

The new coalition Government requires all schools to implement a cell phone policy.

International research indicates that cell phones can distract students from learning during class time and reduce important face-to-face interaction during school breaks. A [UNESCO report](#) published in July 2023, describes the move towards cell phones being away for the school day as supporting addressing issues of classroom disruption, improving learning and helping protect children from cyberbullying.

At Pakuranga College, we are also increasingly concerned about the negative impact cell phones and devices are having on the social connections and interactions of our young people. Our young people need these essential socialisation skills as part of their development, but these have been significantly impacted by the COVID lockdowns over the past few years.

## Cell phone policy for Pakuranga College

Our approach at Pakuranga College is “away for the day”, meaning cell phones 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. (no texting, no social media, no videoing)

The cell phone policy also extends to other digital devices (e.g. laptops, Chromebooks etc) during intervals and lunchtimes. Devices can only be used during these times in the library or inside classrooms whilst supervised by a teacher. Students are not to have earphones/EarPods in and will be asked to remove them and put them in their bag.

It is important to note that if students do decide to bring a cell phone 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 a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office or contact their child via their school email address. If a student needs to contact their caregiver urgently during the school day, they should go to their Whanau Leader (Dean) who will assist.

## Cell phones “away for the day” expectations

Students are always 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/EarPods in, the process will be;

1. A warning given by a staff member to the student to put the cell phone and/or earphones/EarPods in their school bag.
2. If the student refuses the staff member or continues to get their cell phone out during the lesson or break times, the staff member will refer the issue to the student's Whānau Leader (Dean). If the Whānau Leader cannot resolve the issue, it will be referred to the Deputy Principal who may confiscate the cell phone for the remainder of the day or request a parent to come in to collect it.

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

### Exceptions

There will be a small number of students with particular learning or physical/mental health needs which will require some access to cell phones. 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. Students/Parents who believe there needs to be an allowance made to meet the student's needs, should discuss the situation with their Whānau Leader or Deputy Principal.

There may be times during lessons where the teachers decides that Headphones or Cell phones are needed for an educational purpose, and they will have authority to override the policy for that particular activity.

An exception to the policy will allow students to use payWave on their phones to pay for school based goods and services for example, at the canteen or to top up their photocopy cards.

Signed:   
Presiding Member/Board Chair

Date: 27/02/2024