

CELLPHONE POLICY 2016

1. Legislative Framework:

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa no 108 of 1996 as amended
National Education Policy Act no 27 of 1996, as amended.
South African Schools Act no 84 of 1996, as amended.

2. Purpose of this policy:

This policy contains the procedures and rules regarding the use and possession of cell phones on the school property and in all rooms of the school.

School management only favours the use of cell phones if they are used according to the procedures and rules set out in this policy.

Cell phones are advantageous for general communication where times have to be confirmed by learners as to when they should be collected by their parents after an extra-mural activity.

The ideal situation, however, is to make all arrangements with children prior to them leaving home in the morning thus eliminating the need for a cell phone at school altogether. Any unforeseen emergencies can then be phoned through to the front office.

3. Times at which cell phone use is permitted:

Cell phones may only be used before and after school, and then only for the purpose of sending or retrieving messages, or making or receiving calls. Cell phones may not be used at any time on the school premises for playing music, to communicate on Mixit, BBM or WhatsApp, for playing games, for taking photographs at all, for accessing the internet, or for accessing social networks such as Facebook or Twitter or Pintrest. Cell phones may not be used or switched on during breaks.

4. Types of cell phones permitted on the school premises by children:

As a result of the onset of e-learning it is no longer prudent to restrict children to basic cellphones, since many tablets have similar functionality to a smartphone. We do still request that a more basic phone be given for school purposes, because despite the fact that the tablets have advanced functionality children are unable to access the internet from their tablets at school, however a smartphone at school would allow the user internet access.

Because of the increasing incidence of pornographic material being downloaded and distributed, cyber bullying, sexting, disruption during lessons and taking of undesirable photographs, access to the internet at school is prohibited on cellphones.

5. Rules regarding the use of cell phones:

- All cell phones of both learners and educators must be switched off during class time. Should an educator be expecting a call of an urgent nature, they may request permission from the principal to keep their cell phone switched on.
- It is not permissible for learners to play with their cell phones or have them in their hands during class time, even if the cell phones are switched off.
- Cell phones may never interfere with class work or interrupt any lesson activity.
- No cell phones may be answered during class time.
- No SMS messages, BBM messages or WhatsApp messages may be sent or received during class time.
- Learners may not be on Mixit or any other internet site or social networking site such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter or Pintrest during class time.
- No learner may download pornographic or explicit sexual material onto their cell phone, or show such material to other learners.
- No learner may download any content of any description from the internet during school hours.
- No cell phone games may be played during class time.
- No cell phone may ring during class time, even if it is just a ring tone test.
- If a cell phone is given to a friend for whatever reason during the course of the day, and the friend is caught using the cell phone it will be confiscated in the same way. The parents of the child whom the cell phone belongs to will then be contacted.
- No learner is allowed to contact his/ her parents directly on their cell phone during the course of the school day for what they perceive to be an emergency, or to report any incident to their parents.

6. Result of the contravention of any of the abovementioned rules:

- When any of the above rules are contravened the cell phone will be confiscated by an educator, placed in an envelope with the child's name and grade on it, and put in the strong room for safekeeping. The parent will then be contacted telephonically and informed of the fact that their child's cell phone has been confiscated. The onus is then on the parent to come and fetch it at their convenience during the school's office hours. No cell phone will be returned to the learner or to any other family member. Furthermore the child will be disciplined in accordance with the discipline system. The SIM card which is in the cellphone at the time that it is confiscated is part of the cellphone and thus will also be kept until the parent fetches the phone.

7. Cases of emergency:

All cases of emergency must be reported to the front office, where one of the secretaries will contact the parents should this be deemed necessary. No learner may contact their parents on their cell phone to come and fetch them from school or to deliver items to them.

8. Safe keeping of cell phones:

- a. School management and staff does not accept responsibility for the loss of a cell phone for whatever reason.
- b. The owner of the cell phone will be personally responsible for the safekeeping of his/ her own cell phone. To this end it is strongly advised that learners do not allow their friends to keep their cell phone during the course of the day, as this often leads to cell phones going missing.
- c. No claim will be entertained or considered by school management or the School Governing Body for any lost or stolen cell phone.
- d. The school's insurance will not cover any person's cell phone.
- e. Cell phones which are confiscated will be kept in the school's strong room until such time as the parent in question has come to collect it. In the case of fire or theft the school will not accept responsibility for any cell phone in its possession.

✂ _____

I _____ parent of _____ in Grade _____ have read and understood the contents of the cell phone policy and pledge to abide by the rules contained herein.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

REFUSAL TO SIGN THIS POLICY DOES NOT EXEMPT THE CHILD FROM THE RULES CONTAINED HEREIN. ALL RULES WILL STILL APPLY TO ALL CHILDREN ATTENDING BRACKENHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

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