CELLPHONE POLICY 2019

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 allows 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 extramural 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 WhatsApp or any other messaging app, for playing games, for taking photographs or videos or audio recordings, for accessing the internet, or for accessing social networking sites such as Facebook , Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat 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.

Access to the internet at school is prohibited on cell phones because of the increasing incidence of pornographic material being downloaded and distributed, cyber bullying, sexting, disruption during lessons, the accessing and distribution of inappropriate material, the accessing and distributing of hate-speech related material, and the taking and distributing of undesirable photographs.

No cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto school property will contain any of the inappropriate material as detailed above.

Rules regarding the use of cell phones:

- All cell phones of both learners and educators must be switched off during school time (i.e. during class time and break 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.
- Learners are not permitted to put their <u>personal hotspots</u> on or <u>connect to any</u> other personal hotspot
- It is not permissible for learners to play with their cell phones, have them in their hands during class time, or break 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 for learners.
- No messages of any kind including, but not limited to, SMS messages, WhatsApp messages or emails, may be sent or received during class time or break time – for learners.
- Learners may not be on any internet site or social networking site such as, but not limited to, Mxit, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or Pintrest during class time or break time.
- No learner may search for, view or download pornographic or explicit sexual material onto their cell phone, or show or send such material to other learners.
- No learner may search for, view or download any hate-speech related content on their cell phone, or show or send such material to other learners.
- No learner may view, stream or download any content of any description from the internet during school hours.
- No cell phone games may be played during class time or break time.
- No cell phone may ring during class time or break 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. All urgent communication must be made through the front office.

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

- The school reserves the right to confiscate and examine the personal cell phone of any learner, including any photographic images or audio or video recording stored on the device where there is a reasonable suspicion by any member of staff or any administrator or representative of the school that such a learner is in breach of any provision of this policy or any other school rule.
- 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 the cell phone 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 be kept until the parent fetches the phone. Neither the school, nor any of their employees, directors, agents or members of staff or governing body member, will be liable for any content existing on any personal electronic device brought onto the school property, or exposure of any person to content existing on any personal electronic device

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.
- Any circumstances, which may require a leaner to have their cell phone on during the school day (i.e. class time and break time), must be approved in advance by the front office and principal. If the phone is then found to be used for purposes other than those explicitly stated, the phone will be confiscated and disciplinary measures evoked as detailed above.

6. 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 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 th contained herein.	e contents of the cell phone p	policy and pledge to abide by t	:he rules
Signed:		Date:	
CONTAINED HER		T EXEMPT THE CHILD FRO TILL APPLY TO ALL CHILDR CHOOL.	
×			
Iand understood th contained herein.	parent of e contents of the cell phone p	in Grade policy and pledge to abide by t	have read the rules
Signed:		Date:	
	ACKENHURST PRIMARY SO		
I	parent of	in Grade	have read
and understood th contained herein.	e contents of the cell phone p	in Grade policy and pledge to abide by t	the rules
Signed:		Date:	
CONTAINED HER ATTENDING BRA	REIN. ALL RULES WILL ST ACKENHURST PRIMARY SO	T EXEMPT THE CHILD FRO TILL APPLY TO ALL CHILDR CHOOL. in Grade policy and pledge to abide by the	REN
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.