



TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

POLICY STATEMENT ON PHONE USE

Rationale

The Government introduced legislation concerning phone use in all state and state-integrated schools that came into effect on 18 January 2024.

(The requirements must be implemented before the start of Term 2, 2024). (Regulation 22, Education (School Board) Regulations 2020)

The Ministry of Education says that research indicates that cellphones at school are a major distraction for NZ students. Rules should be designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber bullying.

Guidelines

1. Students are **NOT** to use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunchtimes and breaks.

This includes students attending a course or on a field trip/out of school activity.

2. However, there are some exceptions. Schools must allow students to use or access a phone when:
 - i. A phone is needed for health reasons (e.g. to monitor insulin levels)
 - ii. A phone is needed to help a student with disability or learning support needs (e.g. to assist with impaired communication)
 - iii. A teacher (or tutor) requires students to use phones for a specific educational task or purpose (e.g. for class assignment or lesson activity)
 - iv. The Principal decides that they are needed for special circumstances (e.g. the student is a teenage parent; protection issues)

N.B. For exceptions (i), (ii) and (iv) students would have a pass authorising this.

3. Our rules and expectations are expected to be upheld and followed by staff and students.

4. Breaches of our cellphone rules at school include (but are not limited to):

- a. – using the device when not permitted or authorised
- b. – any sort of bullying, including on-line bullying
- c. – taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- d. – forwarding inappropriate messages or content

5. There are disciplinary consequences for repeated defiance and non-compliance by students, as per the school's discipline procedures.

6. Parents/caregivers are expected to support us around our rules and expectations.

7. It is expected that parents/caregivers needing to urgently contact their child(ren) during the day, would contact the Student Centre.

8. If a student brings a cellphone to school, they do so at their own risk: the school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone.

9. We are a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school e.g. laptop, Chromebook. Phones are not an acceptable substitute (unless authorised by the teacher for a specific teaching/learning/assessment purpose).

We are preparing our students to be comfortable and competent in sitting digital assessments.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

27/3/24

PRINCIPAL

DATE

27/3/24