



**Devon Intermediate School**  
*Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngāmotu*

## **Phone and device rules at Devon Intermediate**

### **Regulations**

In line with the regulations (Education (School Boards) Regulations 2020), Regulation 22 (inserted 18 January 2024), students at Devon Intermediate are not allowed to use or access mobile phones or smart watches at any time when they are attending school. This includes morning interval and lunchtime, and when on school trips.

As a result, we have opted for an 'away for the day' rule. This means that:

- Phones are not brought to school at all, or
- Phones are to be handed in at the school office.

It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a mobile 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 mobile phone, including confiscated phones, and is not required to assist with finding a lost phone.

### **Expectations**

- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office.

### **Breaking the phone or device rule includes:**

- using or accessing a phone or smart watch when not permitted
- having a phone in the school bag, or on your person during the school day
- any sort of bullying, including online bullying using any device
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission using any device
- forwarding inappropriate messages or content using any device.

### **Consequences for breaking the phone or device rule:**

In circumstances where a member of staff considers that a student has broken the phone rule the result will be confiscation.

The phone will be confiscated directly by the teacher, who will take it to the Principal at the next break. The phone will be named and securely stored in the Principals office.

- If this is the first time in the school year that the student has broken the rule about phone use, the device can be collected by the student after school finishes at 3.00pm.
- If this is the second time (or more) in the school year that the student has broken the rule about phone use, parents/whānau will need to collect the phone from the Principal.
- If a student continues to break the rule about phone use, this could be viewed as 'continual disobedience' and further disciplinary action, including but not limited to stand-down or suspension, may be taken.
- If a student who breaks the rule chooses not to give their phone to a teacher or the main office, they have chosen to escalate the situation to defiance rather than breaking a phone rule, and further consequences may follow.

In circumstances where a member of staff considers that use of any device has been used inappropriately (including bullying, taking photos or video without permission, or forwarding inappropriate messages or content) the matter will be referred to a Deputy Principal, for further investigation before a decision is made regarding potential disciplinary actions.

**Exemptions:**

- Students who use mobile phones to monitor physical health conditions, such as diabetes, will be granted an exemption on application to the Principal by parents/whānau.
- In matters related to a student's immediate health and safety concerns, a parent or caregiver can apply at any time to the Principal for a period of exemption (e.g., temporary medical conditions or protection issues). Evidence such as legal documents or specialist medical recommendations will be requested before an exemption is granted. Exemptions will be rare and are unlikely to be given for reasons such as anxiety or feeling insecure in a new environment.

Please note with all exemption's appropriate usage guidelines and other relevant school rules still apply.

Implementation date: 29 April 2024 Review date: April 2025