

Student Cell Phone Policy

Piopio Primary School does not recommend that students bring personal digital devices to the school. These are not necessary to have during the day.

GUIDELINES

We will ensure students do not use or access a personal phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds.

This will be in effect at the start of **Term 2, 29th April 2024.**

If a student brings a cell phone to school the following system will follow:

- Students will hand their cell phone in at the office when they arrive at school daily.
- Students can collect cell phones from 3:00pm.
- Cell phones will be named and stored in a locked cupboard in the school office during the day.
- It is important to note that if students do make the decision 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.

We will allow students to use or access a phone when:

- A phone is needed for health reasons (for example, to monitor insulin levels); or
- A phone is needed to help a student with a disability or learning support need (for example, to assist with impaired communication); or
- The principal decides that they are needed for special circumstances.

Health and emergency situations

- Students with additional learning needs who use cell phones in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn will be granted an exemption. 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. medical conditions or protection issues).
- We understand that occasionally parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school, cell phones will be available for students during the after school pick up time. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the front office.
- Parents or caregivers need to notify the office if their child needs a cell phone at school and for what reason.

Breaches of the cell phone rules include (but not limited to):

- Using the device when not permitted
- Any sort of bullying, including online bullying
- Taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- Forwarding inappropriate messages or content.

Consequences

- If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately or without permission during the school day, we will confiscate it.
- The parent/guardian will be contacted.
- After the student locks the device, the cell phone will be placed in the office to be collected by a parent or guardian.

Policy promulgated: 27 March 2024