



ABC Cellular Phone Policy

Reviewed October 2019

'Explore to Achieve'

The ABC Board has passed a cellular phone policy allowing students limited use of cellular phones. The intent of the policy is to promote safety and provide students with the ability to readily communicate with parents and/or family after school hours. It is not the intent to provide students with a means of entertainment or unnecessary communication. ABC its employees, and third party agents contracted by the school shall not be financially or legally responsible for lost, stolen or damaged phones. In addition, these same parties shall not be responsible for the illegal or improper use of cell phones or cell phone accessories, or any violation of the responsibilities that students must take on when parents choose to have their child possess a cell phone at school. **The responsibility for cell phone possession at school or on school buses shall therefore rest entirely with the parent/guardian and the student.** Students who possess and/or use a cell phone at school must follow the responsibilities listed below. Any violation of the responsibilities may result in loss of the privilege to have a cell phone at school, loss of the cell phone until a written application to the Principal requesting the phone back has been handed in (the request may or may not be granted), detention, in-school suspension, and suspension. Illegal use of a cell phone is likely to be referred to law enforcement.

The following rules must be observed in connection to any cell phone possession or use at school or any school related event:

- Students must keep their cell phones **OFF and in their backpacks, pockets, or purses** while riding a school bus and when on school grounds prior to entering the building in the morning. Cell phones therefore shall **NOT** be used on a school bus **AT ANY TIME or before school in the morning (outside or inside)**;
- Cell phones are **NEVER** to be taken out in classes, the toilets, locker rooms or carried in the hallways during the school day. Cell phones are to be **kept in student bags during the school day** and must be **TURNED OFF**. Cell phones shall therefore not be used during the school day anywhere in the building or on school grounds;
- No portion of a cell phone other than the voice feature may be used at school. Cell phone camera usage is strictly forbidden. Games, PDAs, and any other type of cell phone accessory shall therefore also not be permitted;
- Cell phones may not be used to transfer or record the voice of anyone but the user. Images also may not be transferred or recorded. Any violation of this rule, including but not limited to, posting the voice or image in a public forum may be referred to local law enforcement.

Inappropriate use of cell phones will lead to confiscation, and they will be kept by the corresponding Head of Section.

1. **First offence:** the phones will be handed back at the end of the day without the need for a written application to the Principal
2. **Second offence:** the phones will be handed back after one month, and only after parents have sent a written application to the Principal

3. **Third offence:** the phones will be handed back on the last day of June, and only after parents have sent a written application to the Principal

Cell phones can APPROPRIATELY be used:

- after normal school hours only. During school hours students can communicate with a parent or family with a school phone or pay phone;
- only outside (when possible) or in the main entrance hall;
- after a school-related event such as a party, dance, concert, or sport activity.

ABC staff have gone over all the rules for cell phone possession and use with all students. They have explained appropriate and inappropriate possession and use. They have also explained the typical types of disciplinary procedures or consequences that may be imposed for students who do not follow the expectations. Please go over all of the rules with your child before you send them to school with a cell phone or allow them to carry them as they wish. We do not want to impose disciplinary measures for improper use, but our desire is simply to provide a means for parents and students to communicate after school hours when a school phone may not be readily available.