



Cell Phone and Smartwatch Rules

International research indicates some key challenges with cellphones at school such as being a major distraction for our students. These rules are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying. At New Plymouth Adventist School we do not encourage cell phones to be at school. If a cell phone is brought to school our approach is “**away for the day**”, meaning the device should be **turned off, and handed in to the office to be locked away during the school day.**

We strongly recommend students do not bring these devices to school with them. **With school permission**, phones may be brought to school if they are needed for a specific reason. Students must give them to the office administrator to look after when they arrive at school and it will be returned at the end of the day. There will be no exceptions.

We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school. Students must give them to the office administrator to look after when they arrive at school and it will be returned at the end of the day. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office.

It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a cellphone 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.

These rules apply to Smart Watches and any electronic device. Smart watches are not permitted unless there is a specific reason. You will need to contact the principal for approved permission.

Appropriate usage

Health and emergency situations

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).

Learning activities

New Plymouth Adventist Christian School provides devices for student learning **so personal devices including cell phones/ smartwatches are not required** for learning activities.

Inappropriate usage

If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately or without permission during the school day, we confiscate it. After the student locks the device, we place it in the office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian.

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.

If a student makes the decision to inappropriately use a cellphone multiple times in a week the cellphone will be confiscated and can only be retrieved by a parent or caregiver following a discussion with their teacher or the principal.

Please note- Cell phone/smartwatch and electronic device use on the School Van bus is **not** permitted until the student is off the bus. The students are still under school supervision until delivered home.

Please note with all exemptions and exceptions appropriate usage guidelines and other relevant school rules still apply.