

Dunstan High School Phone Policy.

Cell phones are an excellent tool for staying connected and for accessing information. However, in a school setting, there is building evidence that they can be distracting and have negative impacts on youth. Some areas impacted as identified in recent research include, aspects of academic focus, interpersonal skills and overall learning outcomes.

Starting on the 13th of April 2024, student phones are not permitted to be used on school grounds from 8.55 am until 3.00 pm. This includes during break times and when moving between classes. Dunstan High School, highly recommends students in Years 9-13 leave their phones at home.

If a student must bring a phone to school, the following applies:

No Phones on the person

- Phones must be turned off and stored in the school bag.
- Phones are not to be stored in pockets.
- A smartwatch may not be used as a phone and notifications need to be turned off.

Delegations

The Dunstan High School Board, delegates the day-to-day management of the school to the Senior Leadership Team.

A clear expectation is in place at Dunstan High School.

- Phones are to be off and away before a student enters class at 8:55am.
- Phones are to remain off until a student has left their learning environment after 3pm.
- During Interval and Lunchtime students may not use their phones at any time.
- Students may not use a phone while moving between classes.

If a student is seen accessing their phone by a staff member during class, the staff member will request that the phone be handed over. If this occurs outside class time the staff member will request that the student hand their phone over, or the staff member will ask the student to hand it into the office. If the staff member has asked the student to hand it into the office they will take the student's name and follow up to ensure this has occurred. If the staff member does not know the student's name they will gather as much information as they can to pass on.

Where a phone is taken by a staff member this will be in line with current [Youth Law](#), regarding confiscation of personal property.

- Refusal to hand over the phone will become a pastoral matter.

Where a phone is removed there is a clear process that will be followed. The staff member will enter key information into Kamar and place the phone at reception at their earliest convenience. If the student has been directed to the office the teacher will notify the office that a student has been directed to hand in their phone at their earliest convenience.

In the event that a student has their phone handed in, the following process will occur:

- 1st time, students can collect their phone from the office at the end of the day.
- 2nd time, a parent must collect it at their earliest convenience. The front office will contact home via email.
- 3rd time, a meeting with the students Dean will need to occur with collection occurring at that meeting.
- 4th time, this will be deemed as continued misconduct and a meeting with SLT will be arranged with collection occurring at that meeting.

Who can use their phone

- Exemptions will be available for students who need their phone for specific dependent medical (medical evidence may be requested) or specific dependent learning needs. These students will need to adhere to the conditions of their exemption at all times.
- A whānau can apply for an exemption if there are exceptional circumstances. These will only be granted by the SLT.
- Exemptions will be placed on KAMAR for all staff to see.

Contact between caregivers and a student during the school day.

- If a student urgently needs to contact a caregiver during the day a phone will be available in the office.
- If a student is unwell during the day they should report to the office so that a caregiver can be contacted.
- Where whānau need to contact a student urgently during the school day, this can be done through the office. A message will then be passed on to the student.

Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC).

Students may take certain digital devices on EOTC activities, but should check whether their device is allowed before the activity commences.

For teachers

As part of planning for classes, teachers will endeavour to direct students to obtain images, photos, graphs etc before a lesson to ensure students are prepared and don't need to use their phones for this. OR create a folder with the required content OR have resources printed and ready for class use.

Teachers will be able to use their phones in situations where it is not practicable to use a laptop. As a school, we would like the teacher to explain to the students why they are on their phone.

For example: "I am just taking the roll as my computer is plugged into the tv". "I am taking the roll because it is not practical for me to use my laptop in the gym/workshop". "I need to use my phone to get cover for a staff member".