

Stratford Primary School: Policies

600 - PHONES AWAY FOR THE DAY POLICY

RATIONALE:

The Government has introduced regulations that require all state schools and kura to have student phone rules in place. Rules must be in effect as soon as possible in Term 1 2024 and no later than Term 2.

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. Our approach is “away for the day”, meaning the device should be turned off, and handed in to be stored away during the school day. We strongly recommend students do not bring these devices to school with them.

GUIDELINES:

1. The Board delegates the management of this Policy to the Principal.
2. Ākonga can bring a phone/smart watch to school. However, it is expected that they will hand their phone/smart watch into the office on arrival at school. Each ākonga will have an allocated number, where phones/smart watches are recorded and stored by the Office Team.
3. Ākonga are not allowed to use and/or carry their phone/smart watch on them unless the Principal has provided an exemption for a specific class/team activity.
4. What happens if an ākonga breaks this rule? The Principal has the discretion to:
 - a. Give ākonga a warning.
 - b. Remove ākonga access to the school Internet for a period of time as per the Internet Use and BYOC Agreements.
 - c. In more serious cases of deliberate misuse of a phone/smart watch, the Principal has the discretion to Stand Down and/or Suspend ākonga as per Ministry of Education Guidelines.

PROCEDURES/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Incidents will be recorded onto the Schools Student Management System under Social Media Issues.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE:

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

MONITORING:

This Policy will be added to the Board’s Triennial Programme/Board Annual Work Plan.

Reviewed: 25 March 2024

Next review: March 2026

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