



Te Aroha College Cell Phone Policy

RATIONALE:

The Ministry of Education requires all schools to set in place rules and regulations to ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. These rules and regulations need to be in place by the start of Term 2, 2024.

DEFINITIONS:

The school day is defined from as soon as a student enters school grounds until the end of of the school day at 3:05pm

DELEGATIONS:

The implementation of this policy is delegated to the Principal, Senior Leadership Team, Dean's and teaching staff.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Students not to bring their cellphones to school
- If students bring their cellphones to school, they must be switched off and kept in their school bag. 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.
- If teachers see students using their cellphones during class time or during break time, they ask for the student to surrender their phone. The phone will be handed into the Dean's office until the end of the current school day.

LEGISLATION:

Education and Training Act (2020)

PROCEDURES:

If phones are seen in class or outside of the classroom they will be confiscated and taken to the Dean's office secured in the school safe.

- 1st time: Can be retrieved from the main office at the end of the day.
- 2nd time: Can be retrieved from the main office at the end of the day. Home contact. Daily drop-off of phone to Deans for the following week.
- 3rd time (in any one term): Can be retrieved from the main office at the end of the day. Daily drop-off of phone to SLT for the following week. Student and parent meeting with a deputy principal or the principal.



If students refuse to hand in their phones, then the matter will be referred to our Deputy Principal's. Failure to comply further may result in more serious consequences put in place which may include being stood down from school for continual disobedience under the Education and Training Act (2020).

Ratified; June 2025
Due for Review: June 2026

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Can I listen to music?

You can use your learning device (Laptop/Chromebook) to listen to music or for learning purposes when a teacher approves. Otherwise, headphones or earbuds should be kept from class. In a workshop, it is unsafe for students to have headphones on and students should wear appropriate safety equipment.

- What about my smartwatch?

Smartwatches may be worn but not connected to their phones or have cellular or wifi access

- What if my parents/caregivers need to contact me in an emergency?

All communications should go through the front office in an emergency.

- What if my work needs to contact me?

All communications should go through the front office, as per parental contact.