



Waihi College 2020 Cell Phone Policy

“Out of Sight out of Mind”



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. The board of trustees has banned the use of phones during school time.
2. If a student is seen using a phone during school time it will be taken for safe keeping and stored in the main office for three days. Parents are welcome to collect these phones at any time. However, students will receive a B detention for the early return of a phone.
3. If your child needs a phone for after school it must be **switched off** and in their bags. The school will take no responsibility for phones in bags.
4. Continual use of cell phones at school will be treated as defiance and handled through our current pastoral system.

Benefits of restricting the use of phones at Waihi College

- Increased positive socialization between students during break times.
- Fewer disruptions in class - Increase in engaged learning time and improved academic performance
- Reduction in cyberbullying and the sharing of offensive materials.
- Reduction of breaches of the digital harmful communications act.

What Waihi college will do to support parents and students through this change

- Role model: The board has also changed the expectations of staff use of cell phones. Staff will also not be permitted to use phones during class time, duty, or in professional meetings.

Why has the board implemented these restriction?

- After many years of issues with phones the board surveyed parents and 95% of surveyed parents support these restrictions.
- Negative behavior:
 - Filming violence then sharing or posting on public forums.
 - Cyberbullying.
 - Sharing of offensive materials.
 - Major distraction in class.
 - Conflict and staff abuse when students are asked to hand over or put away their phones.
 - Anti social behavior.
 - These are just some of the many issues schools face with having a free use policy.
- If you google phone bans in schools you will see many schools in NZ are taking this stance. France and many parts of Australia have already banned phones in schools.
- Ministry of Education released that over 300,000 searchers for pornographic material were blocked in 2019. **How much was not?**

- Education: The school will be incorporating the new school policies and teaching the digital harmful communications act in our Learning Advisory programs.
- Guest speakers: Youth aid and police education officers to visit and inform students of the laws and how to keep themselves safe online.