***Fairfield College***

**RULES FOR STUDENT ACCESS TO CELL PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

These rules are informed by the consultation that Fairfield College engaged in regarding student access to cell phones during the school day. We have endeavoured to reflect feedback on the changes that we are required to make in the school’s “***Cell phones and other personal digital device policy”*** to ensure that Fairfield College is compliant with the new regulations. This policy can be accessed at [Fairfield College policies](https://faircol.schooldocs.co.nz/index.htm?toc.htm?7011.htm?id=ccc2724a-c3c3-46f3-874b-daed1a5f7fbe). Insert faircol as the username and equity1957 as the password.

International research indicates some key challenges with cell phones  at school such as being a major distraction for students. These rules are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

Fairfield College’s approach  is ***“cell phone*** **away for the day**”, meaning cell phones either do not come with the student to school (recommended), or are switched off and put in their school bags during the full school day.

If a student does bring their cell phone for emergency contact or health reasons they must be issued with a Fairfield College cell phone exemption which will stipulate how the cell phone can be accessed during the school day.  Generally, cell phones must be switched off and kept in bags at all times, unless directed by the teacher

It is important to note that if students make the decision to bring a cell phone to school, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cell phone.

We understand that some parents like their children to have a cell phone to communicate with them before and after school. This can still take place as long as it happens before 8:55am and after 3:10pm. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child(ren) urgently during the school day, they should call the office or contact their child via their school email address..

**Cell phones ‘away for the day’ expectations**

Students are encouraged to regulate themselves and develop healthy in person relationships. In circumstances where a staff member considers that student use of a cell phone breaches the school cell phone rules, the cell phone may be confiscated.  Usually, the student is invited to put the cell phone  away but this will depend on the type of inappropriate use and the frequency of the breach of the rules. If this occurs in the classroom and after the student locks the cell phone it will be returned to them at the end of the period. If the student refuses to give their cell phone to the staff member they will be requested to report to the reception where the incident will be followed up. If this occurs in the school grounds and after the student locks the cell phone  it will be  placed in the reception and can be collected at the end of the day.

Breaches of the cell phone rules include (but not limited to)

* Using the cell phone 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

**Cell phones ‘away for the day’ exemptions**

**Learning activities**

If cell phones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply.

**Cell phone exemptions - Health, learning support, and emergency situations**

Students with additional learning needs who use cell phones in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn will be granted an exemption. 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).

The Ministry of Education has set the following cell phone exemption criteria that schools are expected to implement and these have been included in the school’s “**Cell phones and other personal digital device policy”.**

Fairfield College allows exemptions for students to use cell phones if they are required for:

·                  a specific educational purpose approved by a teacher

·                  health needs (e.g. to monitor insulin levels)

·                  disability or learning support needs.

·                  a special circumstance approved by the principal.

If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child during school hours, they should call the office.

To access a student cell phone exemption application please email  [reception@faircol.school.nz](mailto:reception@faircol.school.nz).

If the exemption application is approved  a student will be provided with a cell phone exemption that they can show a staff member on request. A student is expected to abide by any conditions that are set in a cell phone exemption.

**Education outside the classroom (EOTC)**

Students may take cell phones on EOTC activities but should check whether this is allowed before the activity commences. Usage will be at the discretion of the teachers that are supervising the activity.