



## Student Mobile Phone Policy

Kindlehill Steiner School has clear protocols regarding the use of mobile phones and advises students and parents/guardians of their expectations and policy requirements, including use during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Kindlehill Steiner School acknowledges that mobile phones when used appropriately, offer students and their parents some advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. However, mobile phones can have a negative and disruptive impact on the learning environment and safety and wellbeing of students. This policy is to protect the well-being of students while in the care of the School, as well as to ensure a consistent and positive learning environment for students.

On arrival at School to the time of departure, students are required to keep mobile phones in their bags, and switched off.

Phones should be turned off during the day. They are not to be brought out for checking or use, during class or break times.

Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used:

- in banned spaces for example changing rooms, toilets, gyms and swimming pools
- to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.

Mobiles phones must not be used to send harassing or threatening messages.

Students should not lend another student their phone for inappropriate use. The students who owns the phone may be held responsible for its use.

Students bring mobiles phones to school at their own risk – the School doesn't accept responsibility for loss or damage.

The phone cannot be used anywhere within the school gates.

## Camp Phone Policy

Phones are to be left at home or must be submitted to the Camp Coordinator, prior to boarding the bus. Students will not have access to phones during camps. If a call needs to be made, the student will seek permission from the Camp Coordinator.

Phones cannot be used for listening to music, playing games etc on bus journeys or as wind down in the evening.

## Consequences of Breaches

1. Illegal use of technology will be reported to the appropriate authorities in accordance with child protection and well-being legislation and protocols.



2. Inappropriate use of phones may lead to one or more of the following:
  - a. temporary confiscation
  - b. confiscation for a definite length of time in which the phone will be kept in a secure location in the office.
  - c. Permanent ban on bringing of phones to School.

### School Mobile Phone Policy – Exemptions

Our school aims to provide a safe, focused and connected learning environment. For this reason, mobile phones are not to be accessed by students during school hours unless an exemption has been approved.

Exemptions may be granted in the following circumstances:

- **Medical needs:** where a phone is required for monitoring or managing a diagnosed health condition.
- **Family circumstances:** where a student requires access due to specific family responsibilities or arrangements.
- **Other exceptional reasons:** considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with school leadership.

Process for requesting an exemption:

1. Families complete the *Request for Exemption* form and submit it to the Principal.
2. Each request will be assessed individually, and additional supporting documentation may be requested (e.g. medical letter).
3. If approved, conditions of use will be agreed upon between the family and the school.
4. Exemptions may be reviewed at any time and can be withdrawn if conditions are not met.

### Related Technology

The intention of this policy applies also to iPods, tablets, smart phones and similar devices.

### Communication About the Policy

The High School Coordinator (or delegated teacher) will discuss this policy with High School students (Class 7 – 12).

This policy is distributed to teachers and/or discussed at teacher meetings.

This policy is distributed to all parents and readily available in the resource section on the website.