MOBILE PHONES (AND OTHER DEVICES) Usage Policy
Elderslie High School

While the school does not encourage students to bring mobile phones to school, it is acknowledged that these devices may be important for student safety and for convenient contact among many families. Most of our students, especially those who travel for considerable distances to and from school, carry mobile phones for very valid reasons.

Mobile phone functions are constantly evolving, and some current models are very sophisticated communication systems which allow users to send and receive phone calls, text messages, faxes, photographs, video, TV and radio broadcasts, as well as sending text, photographs, recorded voices and video to the internet and to printers. In the school context, individual student access to this sophisticated communication technology has important implications for school procedures, for student safety, and for student and staff privacy.

It is therefore appropriate to update and restate the school’s policy on mobile phones.

Students and parents should understand that the following points also relate to other devices (such as iPods, portable computer games, cameras, etc.) which some students bring to school at times.

1. Bringing a mobile phone to school is a privilege, not a right. Students must be fully aware of their obligations in relation to the use of mobile phones at school. Mobile phones must be used in a respectful, responsible and appropriate manner, especially in relation to the rights of others.
   • If a phone goes missing, the student should report the matter to a teacher and/or to the Deputy Principals as soon as possible. While every reasonable effort will be made to investigate, recovery is not always possible.
   • Nevertheless, any student who is found to be involved in the theft or illegal purchase of a mobile phone at school may be suspended from school and the police contacted.

2. Students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk and should always ensure that the phones are secure – do not leave them in unattended bags, for instance. The school accepts no responsibility or liability for the damage or loss of mobile phones.

3. Mobile phones must be turned off during all classes, meetings, assemblies, performances, etc. Student learning and school activities must not be disrupted.
   • Any mobile phones heard or used during classes, meetings, assemblies, performances, etc., will be confiscated by teachers and handed to the Deputy Principals. The owner must collect the phone from the Deputy Principals at the end of the school day after the final bell.
   • A second confiscation will result in the student being issued with a formal caution.
   • Subsequent offences may result in a suspension from school for continued disobedience.
   • It is acknowledged that, if a phone is confiscated, the security of the phone is the school’s responsibility until it is collected by the owner at the end of the day.

*Policy continued overleaf...*
4. Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in examinations or formal assessments. Students who use such devices to (cheat or gain an unfair advantage) will be penalised.

5. Mobile phones must not be used to by-pass school procedures in relation to school-parent contact such as the notification of student illness, disciplinary procedures, or other emergency contact.
   - Parents should make themselves aware of scheduled breaks during the school day(s) and should not attempt to contact their child during lesson times.
   - In a family emergency, parents should contact the school office and arrangements will be made to inform the individual student.
   - If a student is ill at school, they must report to the school office and parents will be officially contacted if necessary. Students must not phone parents directly for permission to go home because they are sick – the school’s ‘duty-of-care’ obligations and procedures must be followed.

6. Mobile phones must not be used to invade the privacy of others or breach the law.
   - “Cyber-bullying” is completely unacceptable and is against the law. Students who use a mobile phone – either by a direct phone call, text message or other function - to bully, harass, threaten, abuse, vilify or embarrass other students or staff will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension from school and contact with the police if necessary.
   - Students must not photograph, video or record the images or voices of students or staff at any time without their specific permission. If such recordings are altered, enhanced or used in any way to bully, harass, threaten, vilify, embarrass or improperly represent others, the offending student(s) will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension from school and contact with the police if necessary.
   - Students who receive unacceptable or inappropriate phone calls, text messages, or other material on their mobile phones at school should immediately inform a teacher and/or the Deputy Principals.

Parents are asked to discuss with their child not only this policy but also the ethical and appropriate use of all forms of modern information and communication technology.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS POLICY FOR YOUR RECORDS

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

I acknowledge and understand the Elderslie High School Mobile Phone (and other devices) Policy.

Signed: ________________________________ Date: ________________

(Parent/Caregiver)

STUDENTS NAME: ________________________________

STUDENT'S MOBILE PHONE NO.: ________________________________

This number will be added to the school’s data base.