

USE OF CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

Background

The Good Spirit School Division recognizes that while cell phones and electronic devices are important communication tools, their misuse can negatively impact privacy rights, create an unsafe or distracting environment, and disrupt the educational process. In response, the Director mandates principals, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to establish and enforce updated procedures in schools.

Procedures

1. Limited Use During Instructional Time
 - 1.1. Cell phones must be silenced and out of sight during instructional time. This includes all classroom activities, assemblies, and any other learning environments within the school.
 - 1.2. Exceptions may be granted at the school level under specific circumstances, such as for educational purposes or health and safety reasons.
2. Use During Non-Instructional Time
 - 2.1. Students are permitted to use cell phones during breaks, lunch hours, on the bus, and other non-instructional times. This administrative procedure applies to all areas of the school campus during these specified times.
3. Staff Leadership and Compliance
 - 3.1. School staff are encouraged to model appropriate cell phone use during instructional time. They are expected to adhere to the same restrictions as students to maintain a consistent and respectful learning environment.
4. Clear Expectations and Consequences
 - 4.1. Each school must develop clear guidelines detailing expectations and consequences for non-compliance. These should address instances of inappropriate use, disruptions caused by devices, and violations of privacy.
 - 4.2. Consequences should be fair, consistent, and designed to educate students about responsible device use.

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5. Communication and Awareness

- 5.1. These procedures must be communicated effectively to all stakeholders, including students, parents, staff, and the school community. This may be achieved through school handbooks, orientation sessions, the school website, and regular reminders.
- 5.2. Schools are encouraged to engage students and parents in discussions about responsible technology use and the rationale behind these procedures.

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1. The effectiveness of these procedures will be regularly monitored and reviewed. Feedback from students, staff, and parents should be considered in any revisions.
- 6.2. Changes to these procedures will be communicated promptly to all stakeholders.

7. Exceptions and Special Considerations

- 7.1. Schools must consider individual needs and circumstances where the use of electronic devices is essential for staff or student health, wellbeing, or learning support. In such cases, tailored arrangements should be made with the principal.

8. Implementation

- 8.1. These revised procedures are to be implemented with immediate effect across all schools within the Good Spirit School Division. Compliance is expected from all students and staff to ensure a positive, respectful, and conducive learning environment.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 108, 109, 175 Education Act

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