



26 January 2024

NEW CELLPHONE POLICY

Ros Robertson
B.A., Dip. Tchg (Sec), M.Ed.Admin.Lead.
Principal

Kia ora and greetings for Term 1 2024,

We trust you have enjoyed the fantastic Auckland weather this summer, managing the humidity enough to get out into some welcome sunshine.

You may have heard that the new Minister of Education has mandated that cellphones are not to be used at any time during the school day, including breaks. In principle we support this direction, as research has identified the negative distraction to learning that occurs when a student's cellphone is within arm's reach. Three years ago our teachers noticed a large improvement in focus when students were asked to place their phones in holders each lesson.

However, the new requirement needs a different response to ensure that if students choose to bring their phone to school, they do not use them throughout the day including break times. Here are the new procedures:

- By the end of Term 1 we will have installed secure lock boxes in each form class, where student cellphones will be kept. Students will hand them in at form time (8.40 – 9.00am) and collect them at afternoon form time (3.00 – 3.05pm).
- Until then, students will be required to have their phones away and off at all times.
- If students are seen with or using a phone, it will be confiscated. Caregivers will be required to collect confiscated phones – they will not be returned directly to the student. The school office is open from 8am to 4pm.
- Repeated confiscations will result in further consequences. The same applies if a student attempts to avoid the cellphone expectations, such as refusing to have their phone confiscated or having a back-up phone.
- At all times we expect staff and students to treat each other with respect and understanding while upholding the cellphone requirements.

Parents can get messages to their children during the day by phoning the school on (09) 8389085 Ext 711 or by emailing attendance@hhs.school.nz Students will be able to use a phone in the Student Centre if an emergency occurs. Thank you for your support of the school as we implement this new requirement.

Sincerely,

Ros Robertson
B.A., Dip. Tchg (Sec), M.Ed.Admin.Lead.
PRINCIPAL