



New Plymouth Girls' High School

Te Kura Taitamawāhine o Puke Ariki

Phone rules at NPGHS

Regulations

In line with the regulations ([Education \(School Boards\) Regulations 2020](#)), [Regulation 22 \(inserted 18 January 2024\)](#), students at NPGHS are not allowed to use or access mobile phones at any time when they are attending school. The government regulations include no use of phones at morning interval and lunchtime, and when on school trips.

For reasons of safety and logistics when going to after school activities or part time employment, many students and family/whānau would like students to have access to phones on the way to and from school. As a result, we have opted for an 'away for the day' rule. This means that:

- Phones are not brought to school at all,
or
- Phones are switched off and placed in a student's school bag or in their pocket when on the school site, including interval and lunchtime.

It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a mobile phone to the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. Care will be taken with all property but the school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any mobile phone, including confiscated phones, and is not required to assist with finding a lost phone.

Expectations:

- All students are expected to comply with the rule and not access their mobile phone at any time during the school day. As stated in the government regulations, this includes at interval, at lunch, during lessons, on EOTC activities, or when on the school grounds after the first bell in the morning to the last bell of the day
- If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office or contact their child via their school email address.
- During Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) activities, students may take certain digital devices with them but should check whether their device is allowed or can be used before the activity commences. Usage will be at the discretion of teachers and other adult supervisors.

If the rule is broken students should expect a consequence. Breaking the phone rule includes:

- using or accessing a phone when not permitted
- having a phone out of the school bag, or pocket, during the school day
- any sort of bullying, including online bullying or taking photos or videos of other people without their permission

The easy way to avoid any consequence is to keep phones away for the day.

Principal: Jacqui Brown BEd BSc Dip Tchg PGDipEd

VISIT

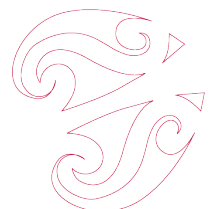
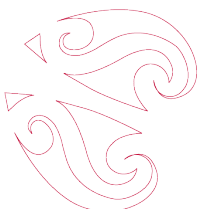
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Consequences for breaking the phone rule:

In circumstances where a member of staff considers that a student has broken the phone rule the result will be confiscation.

The phone will be confiscated directly by the teacher, who will take it to Student Services at the next break, or the student will accompany the teacher to Student Services if the rule is broken at morning interval or lunch. The phone will be named and securely stored at Student Services.

- If this is the first time in the school year that the student has broken the rule about phone use, the device can be collected by the student from Student Services after 3.40pm on the day that the phone rule is broken. Inappropriate use will be recorded in the school's student management system, KAMAR, and the parent will be emailed.
- If this is the second time (or more) in the school year that the student has broken the rule about phone use, the phone will be confiscated and parents/whānau and the student will be invited to a meeting with the Waka Kaitiaki or Waka Amo (Dean) to develop a plan together. The plan will be aimed at preventing the repeated breaking of the rule and potential defiance. The phone will be returned to the parent/whānau at the meeting.
- If a student continues to break the rule about phone use, this could be viewed as 'continual disobedience' and further disciplinary action, including but not limited to stand-down or suspension, may be taken.
- If a student who breaks the rule chooses not to give their phone to a teacher or Student Services, they have chosen to escalate the situation to defiance rather than breaking a phone rule, and further consequences may follow. The teacher will report the defiance to a Waka Kaitiaki or Waka Amo (Deans), or Deputy Principal, for further investigation.

In circumstances where a member of staff considers that use of any device has been used inappropriately (including bullying, taking photos or video without permission, or forwarding inappropriate messages or content) the matter will be referred to a Waka Kaitiaki or Waka Amo (Deans), or Deputy Principal, for further investigation before a decision is made regarding potential disciplinary actions.

Exemptions:

As stated in the government regulations, there are some exemptions to the rule, as follows:

- Learning activities - if a teacher gives an explicit instruction that mobile phones are used for a learning activity, students may use their phones for the activity. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply. Students must turn phones off and replace them in their bag or pocket when the teacher advises the learning activity has finished or the lesson ends.
- Students who use mobile phones for language translation or specialised communication apps will be granted an exemption.
- Students who use mobile phones to monitor physical health conditions, such as diabetes, will be granted an exemption on application to the Principal by parents/whānau.
- 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., temporary medical conditions or protection issues). Evidence such as legal documents or specialist medical recommendations could be requested before an exemption is granted. Exemptions will be rare, and are unlikely to be given for reasons such as anxiety or feeling insecure in a new environment.

Please note with all exemptions appropriate usage guidelines and other relevant school rules still apply.