

CELL PHONES AND OTHER HAND HELD DEVICES AT SCHOOL

2010 saw the introduction of a new national curriculum in all schools. A major change has been the requirement for schools to implement Key Competencies for living and lifelong learning in the 21st Century.

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies:

- Thinking.
- Using language, symbols and texts.
- Managing self.
- Relating to others.
- Participating and contributing.

People use these competencies to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of their communities. More complex than skills, the competencies draw also on knowledge, attitudes and values in ways that lead to action. They are not separate or stand-alone. They are the key to learning in every learning area.

Central to these is our young peoples' ability to use ICT including assistive technology to access and provide information and to communicate with others.

Our school prides itself on being a progressive and leading school. Two of our strategic goals seek to ensure all our students will develop the skills to live in a global community and for the school to be innovative and focused on continuous improvement.

The world our young people live in today is far different from that even five years ago. For the young and increasingly for business, social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Flickr; and information sites such as Google and Wikipedia, are as well known as Coca Cola and McDonalds.

It is our responsibility to ensure our students can take their place in this world with the skills, values and moral obligations that accompany such freedom of information access and communication.

At our school students are permitted to have cellphones at school under strict protocols. Provided individual students follow these protocols, they will have a **Trusted Student** status. Those who fail to follow the protocols will lose this status and will be banned from having a cellphone at school. This recognises that over 90% of our students are exemplary citizens of the school and their privileges do not deserve to be compromised by a small number who will be placed on a restricted list.

With the presence of student cellphones at school, we will develop new and innovative ways to utilise this technology for learning.

Our school is pioneering ways to use cellphones for videotaping and recording interviews, visits during field trips and uploading these to student portfolios on the school ICT network.

In this way our students will be able to lift their engagement in learning to a higher and more meaningful level.

PROTOCOLS FOR CELLPHONES AT SCHOOL

- All students wishing to have a cellphone at school must register on School Links (this will initially be done class by class at school. Students and parents can also do this through our school homepage at www.otuinter.school.nz).
- Phones must be switched off in class unless teachers give permission to use these for learning.
- No put downs or nasty texts allowed.
- No inappropriate music or ringtones.
- No inappropriate photos or videos.
- No cellphone chargers at school.
- Cellphones must be switched off in the Literacy Centre and Assembly.
- No direct calls to friends or parents during school time. All contact with people outside of school must continue to be made through the school office.
- No videoing or photographing of others at school without their permission.
- No uploading of school images to social media sites such as Facebook, Bebo and YouTube.
- Cellphones brought to school remain the responsibility of the student. The school will take care but no responsibility for loss, breakage or theft of cellphones.
- Teachers will not take responsibility for the security or storage of cellphones.
- Students breaking these protocols will have their cellphones confiscated and parents will need to collect these from the Principal on Friday afternoons.
- Students breaking these protocols will be placed on a restricted list and banned from bringing their cellphone to school for a month. For a second offence, this will be extended to either a term or the remainder of the year depending on circumstances.

