

## 2.02

# Cell Phone Policy

---

### Outcome Statement

Ruapehu College is introducing a total ban on cell phones beginning with Year 9 students in 2022, and continuing to include each successive year group (with the exception of Year 13 students) until 2025, to phase out phones at the college for all students from Year 9 - Year 12. There is, and will be, no ban on phones for Year 13 students.

### Rationale

The health and well-being of our students remains our priority. Phones have previously been allowed as a learning device in certain situations in the classroom. However, students have been unable to manage their legitimate use for learning from disruptions to their ability to concentrate, engage, and achieve. Research is clear that the predisposition of addiction to phones is becoming an international issue. The negative impact to mental health, general well-being, and lack of academic success are avoidable if we act.

### Guidelines

#### Parents/Caregivers

1. Must not contact their son/daughter directly during any curriculum period.
2. Are encouraged to contact the college office to relay messages.
3. If parents/caregivers need to contact their son/daughter who has a legitimate cell phone at school, they must do so during first or second breaks, or before or after school hours only.
4. Parents/caregivers who wish their son/daughter to have a phone at college for any special circumstances need to discuss this with the college first; please contact the office.

#### Year 10 - 12 Students (during period of phase out)

1. Phones must remain in schoolbags, switched off and not engaged during any curriculum activities—academic, sporting, or cultural.
2. Phones are only allowed to be used during the first and second breaks.
3. Phones must not be used during student transition between curriculum sessions or upon entering a curriculum session.

#### Year 9 Students 2022 (and every successive year hereafter)

1. Can only have a phone on-site with signed approval from a parent/caregiver explaining the reason why the phone is needed. It is not a blanket approval but for special circumstances.
2. If it is agreed upon for a Year 9 student to bring a cell phone they must hand this into the front office at the start of the day.

## **Violations Of The Policy**

First Violation:

1. Confiscation of the phone, labeled, and stored in the school safe.
2. The student must then discuss the return of the phone with the Dean.

Second Violation:

1. Confiscation of the phone, labeled, and stored in the school safe.
2. Parents are notified and must meet with the Deputy Principal in charge of that year group before returning the phone to the parents.

Third Violation

1. Confiscation of the phone, labeled, and stored in the school safe.
2. Parents are notified and must meet with the Deputy Principal in charge of that year group before returning the phone to the parents.
3. If the student is allowed their phone at school it will now be required to be handed in to the school office at the beginning of each day.

Failure To Surrender Phone

1. Students will be issued a Section 45 and removed from school until a meeting with parents has been held.
2. Further non-compliance will follow established procedures for continued disobedience.

## **Supporting Documentation**

If you have concerns about your child's use of devices for social media, gaming, or other purposes at home, there are some very helpful resources found on the Netsafe parenting page that can support you. <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents>

Please also see the cell phone contract found below.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board's regular policy review process.

## **Ratified by Ruapehu College Board of Trustees**

Chairperson: Elijah Pue

Signed: 30 November 2021

Date for policy review: 30 November 2024

# Cell Phone Contract

## Student Agreement

In being allowed to bring my phone to college, I agree to the following:

1. My phone must remain in my schoolbag, switched off, and not engaged with during any curriculum activities—academic, sporting, or cultural.
2. My phone is only allowed to be used during the first and second breaks, and before and after school.
3. My phone must not be used during student transition between curriculum sessions or upon entering a curriculum session.
4. I understand and agree with the consequences outlined above if I violate any provision of this policy.

## Parent/Caregiver Agreement

In supporting the college to keep my son/daughter safe, I agree to the following:

1. If my son/daughter requires a phone onsite for any special circumstances I will contact the college and discuss this PRIOR to my son/daughter bringing a phone onsite.
2. If I have to contact my son/daughter in an emergency, I will do so via the office who will have my son/daughter removed from class to speak with me directly. I understand that the college's expectation of an emergency is that my son/daughter will be picked up for the rest of the day.
3. If my son/daughter has a phone onsite, I will not contact them directly during any curriculum time, but only during breaks or before or after school.
4. If I need to speak to my son/daughter I will contact the college office to relay messages.

*Please fill out this portion and return it to the school office.*

-----  
As the student named below, I understand and agree to the provisions of the Cell Phone Policy 2022, and consequences of their violation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

As the parent/guardian of the student named above, I understand and agree to the provisions of the Cell Phone Policy 2022, and accept the consequences of their violation for my son/daughter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/caregiver's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**(Please note that this contract is not dependant on the policy being enforced).**