

Q1. Our school does not have a problem with cell phone use. Why do we have to follow this policy?

This policy applies to all schools within the NLSchools system so that all school communities have the same approach to support a positive environment for teaching and learning.

Q2. Does this policy only apply to cell phones?

This policy applies to all personal electronic devices (PEDs). This includes cell phones, smart watches, music playing devices, ear buds/head phones, etc.

Q3. When will my child/children have access to their PEDs while in school?

We encourage all students to leave their devices at home. Students in grades K-6 will not have access to their devices during the school day. Students in grades 7 to level 4 will only have access to their devices during recess and lunch time, and before and after school hours.

Q4. My child/children share a locker with another student, or their school does not provide lockers. What options are available for them to comply with the Policy?

PEDs could be placed in a bag, school bag, desk drawer, classroom locker, or anywhere out of sight but not on a student's body (e.g. in a student's clothing) during instructional hours while in school.

Q5. How can I contact my child/children during instructional hours?

Please call the school office. Schools will determine their communication processes so that that important messages are given to students in a timely manner.

Q6. My child has anxiety and needs to be able to contact parents as needed.

We encourage all students to leave their devices at home. Students who do not bring devices to school will be able call parents/guardians through the school office or counsellor's office as determined by the school. Students in grade 7 to level 4 will

have access to their devices during recess and lunch. Calling or texting during instructional hours is a distraction to students' learning and the learning of others.

Q7. What happens if my child/children repeatedly contravenes this Policy?

If a student repeatedly contravenes this Policy, teachers and administrators may issue other progressive disciplinary actions than those outlined in the Policy.

Q8. What if my child/children have to use their PEDs for medical reasons or educational purposes during instructional hours?

This Policy provides exceptions to allow students to use PEDs for documented medical reasons or educational purposes.

- For **Medical Reasons**, for example: glucose monitoring and hearing aid settings.
- For **Educational Purposes**, for example: Proloquo2Go, Read&Write, or using assistive technologies, or others for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Exceptions Forms are available online or through your student's school.

Q9. Does NLSchools offer curriculum or guidance on responsible use of PEDs?

Yes. Students receive direction and instruction at all grade levels about appropriate behaviours during instructional time, techniques for active listening and learning, and how to avoid distractions during class time. At intermediate and senior grade levels, students may learn about how to foster positive mental health, and how to use technology responsibly.