



Fairhaven School
Whānau ako – learning together

Procedure 2.12b

Fairhaven School Phones Away Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of cell phones within Fairhaven School in alignment with the New Zealand Government's Phones Away Policy.

This policy aims to minimise distractions, promote a focused learning environment, and ensure the safety and well-being of all students while accommodating the needs of students who require cell phones for communication and sensory purposes.

By adhering to this policy, we demonstrate our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and focused educational setting where every student can thrive.

Scope: This policy applies to all students and visitors at Fairhaven School. Staff usage is covered in the staff handbook.

Policy Statement:

Cell Phone Usage: Cell phones must be turned off or switched to silent mode and stored out of sight during school hours, including classes, assemblies, and other school-related activities, unless specifically permitted by a teacher for educational purposes.

The use of cell phones for personal calls, messaging, social media, gaming, and other non-academic purposes is strictly prohibited during school hours.

Exemptions: Students who require cell phones as a communication device due to specific learning or accessibility needs are exempt from the Phones Away Policy. Our Speech and Language Therapist has the delegated authority from Fairhaven School Board to sign these exemptions and the exemption will be noted on our Student Management System, following discussion with whānau.

Students who require their cell phones to meet sensory and anxiety needs are also exempt from the Phones Away Policy. Such exemptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis, following consultation with whānau. Our Occupational Therapist has the delegated authority from Fairhaven School Board to sign these exemptions and the exemption will be noted on our Student Management System, following discussion with whānau.

Guidelines for Exempted Students: Exempted students must use their cell phones solely for the purposes specified in their exemption approval.

Cell Phone Storage: Students who are not exempted from the Phones Away Policy must store their cell phones in designated areas. Phones will be stored safely in offices or in a locked cupboard at each of our sites, during school hours.

Consequences for Non-Compliance: If a student does not comply with the Phones Away Policy a meeting will be arranged with whānau. Repeat non-compliance may result in escalated consequences, including but not limited to confiscation of the cell phone, and participation in restorative practices.



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Review and Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed regularly by the School Leadership team in consultation with staff, students, and whānau to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Modifications or revisions to the policy may be made based on feedback and evolving needs within the school community.