**TE TOTARA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**POLICY:**  Cellphone Policy

N.E.L.P. 1:1

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY**: School Board

**Why have this policy?**

The Government introduced legislation concerning phone use in all state and state-integrated schools that came into effect on 18 January, 2024*. (The requirements must be implemented before the start of Term 2 ,2024)*

The Ministry of Education says that research indicates that cellphones at school are a major distraction for NZ students.

**How will we do this?**

1. Student use of cellphones during the school day on the school premises is strictly prohibited.
2. All students must hand their turned off cellphone to the teacher who will securely store the cellphone for the school day.
3. In case of emergency, parents/guardians should contact the School Office directly. The school will facilitate communication between the parent/guardian and the student if necessary.

Consequences of Violation

1. If a child is seen or a teacher knows of a student using a personal digital *device (including smart watches)* without permission during the school day, it will be confiscated and placed in the School Office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian.

Exceptions

1. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the school Principal for specific educational purposes or medical circumstances. Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing by a parent/guardian to the school Principal.

Responsibility

 It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child understands and complies with this policy.

If students do bring a cellphone onto the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone or communication device.

Policy Review

 This policy will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure its effectiveness and relevance to the evolving needs of the school community.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to create a focused, safe and conducive learning environment for all students at Te Totara Primary School.

**The Te Totara Cellphone Rule:**

At Te Totara School our approach towards cellphones is “away for the day”, meaning the device should be turned off, and handed in to the teacher to be locked away during the school day.

We strongly recommend students **do not** bring communication devices to school with them. If a student does bring their cellphone for after school contact, it **must** be handed to the teacher when they arrive at school to be locked away.

In case of emergency, parents/guardians should contact the School Office directly. The school will facilitate communication between the parent/guardian and the student if necessary.

If students do bring a cellphone onto the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone or communication device.

If a child is seen or a teacher knows of a student using a personal digital device (including smart watches) without permission during the school day, it will be confiscated and placed in the School Office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian.

Presiding Member …………………………..... Principal ………………………….....

Date Reviewed: 21 March 2024 Next Review Date: March 2026