**RFWS Possession and use of mobile phones and other electronic devices policy**

**Preamble**

Mobile phones and other personal electronic devices such as iPods and mp3 players are a part of modern society and the school accepts that many students will possess these devices. They are a useful, especially where the issue of safety is concerned. However, teachers and students have a right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment free from interruption and distraction from these devices.

Mobile phones and similar electronic devices in schools present a number of challenges. These include:

* Interrupting lessons and disrupting the learning of others
* Theft of mobile phones and similar electronic devices
* Mobile phones and similar electronic devices disrupting or distracting the user or others around them from assessments, important instructions or demonstrations.
* Mobile phones and similar electronic devices being used inappropriately at excursions and other school-related events
* Mobile phones and similar electronic devices being a barrier to teacher-student communication.

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**Policy**

While we prefer students not have mobile phones or other electronic devices at school, we realize that students may bring them; therefore, the school has adopted the following policy:

1. Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices to school. The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are brought to school and undertakes no responsibility to investigate their misplacement, loss or theft.
2. Mobile phones may only be used during breaks, and before and after school in the school grounds. They should not be used as a means of contact during class time.
3. Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight at all other times including in class and at assemblies. Silent or discreet settings are not acceptable. The phone must be off. Where a phone rings or is seen by a teacher in class or during an assembly, the phone will be confiscated by the teacher and secured in the school office The phone will be returned when the student's parents have contacted the school and have discussed the school's policy and the student's breach of it with the Assistant Principal.
4. A teacher **may** give permission for students to use electronic devices in class. However, students must not assume that they have the right to use these devices in class.

***Our policy is that the authority to permit use of electronic devices rests with the teacher; students may not have such items out without the teacher’s permission in class.***

1. If a teacher gives permission for the use of an electronic device in class no sound must heard. Where this can not be followed the electronic device will be confiscated by the teacher and secured in the school office. The electronic device will be returned when the student's parents have contacted the school and have discussed the school's policy and the student's breach of it with the Assistant Principal.
2. Unless specifically allowed by a teacher, electronic devices must be switched off and out of sight during class time and at assemblies.
3. If a child refuses to allow their phone or electronic device to be confiscated or separated from their person the Assistant Principal will be informed. Only when a suitable arrangement has been made and this policy can be adhered to by all parties will the student be accepted back into the classroom.
4. Where parents need to contact their children during the school day, they are to come to the appropriate classroom in person or contact the school office and leave a message.
5. The school recognizes a body of scientific and medical opinion that suggests mobile telephone use may be dangerous. We acknowledge that this provides another reason for students to be discouraged from using mobile phones.
6. All Staff at the school will endeavor to follow and support this policy.