

Physical Address

19 Appleby Road
Albany
Auckland 0632

Postal Address

PO Box 303 269
North Harbour
Auckland 0751

T +64 9 415 5473
F +64 9 415 8614
E office@ajhs.school.nz
www.ajhs.school.nz

17th May 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Electronic Device School Policy

Currently, schools are reviewing their policies around the use of electronic devices during school hours. Technology has a significant role to play in the classroom, but this needs to be facilitated with care to ensure students learn positively. Personal mobile phones, on the other hand, are proving to be an unnecessary distraction for our students in terms of their access to social media sites, as well as potentially being a source of bullying and other negative activities.

There are growing and serious concerns around this issue and schools also have a legal duty of care to keep students safe and provide them with a secure physical and emotional environment in which to learn. Not only is the distraction and a lack of sleep big issues relating to mobile phone use, but there is also the threat of online predators and cyber bullying - cyber bullying being something that we are aware happens at our school and which we aim to address. Research shows that one in four children, under the age of 12 years old, are being stalked, harassed or abused. For these reasons, AJHS has formulated a new policy on the use of phones during the school day.

The new policy is as follows:

- If a student brings a phone to school they must keep it in their bag and turned off at any time during the school day (8:35am - 3:10pm). This includes morning tea and lunch.
- If a student is observed with a phone, they will be asked to hand it to the teacher or whanau leader, to be picked up at the end of the day. If possible, students should lock their phone before handing it to staff.
- If a student is observed with a phone for a second time, the phone will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to pick up the phone from the Deputy Principals' office. Further continued observation of a phone during the school day will lead to disciplinary action.
- Students may take a mobile phone on EOTC activities and events only at the discretion of the teacher/organiser, for such purposes as taking photos etc.
- If a parent needs to contact their child URGENTLY during the day, they should call the office on 415 5473 (please state if it is urgent and we will make sure the student returns your call from a school phone as soon as possible).

This policy takes effect from Monday 8th April (week 11 of Term 1).

For further evidence from psychologists around why we feel this policy is important, please watch the video at https://ajhs.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-smartphones-schools.

Mobile phones are changing our young people's behaviour in ways that could not have been predicted. We thank you for your support in keeping your children safe and healthy during their school day with us.

Kind regards



Stephen Kendall-Jones
Principal