



BLOUBERG

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SOUTH AFRICA

CELLPHONE POLICY

CREATED: February 2018; REVISED: August 2021, June 2022

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1. Preamble

Blouberg International School (hereafter the School) recognizes that cellphones are possessed by most students and are a vital form of modern communication, as well as a useful tool in the educational process.

However, in spite of their many advantages, the School also recognizes that, when misused, cellphones have the potential to be a distraction and may even cause harm. In particular, the camera and video functions may be used to record inappropriate and/or harmful content. The ready availability of inappropriate content on the internet (e.g. pornographic material) is another reason why the use of such devices needs to be limited within the school environment.

2. Liability

Students are advised to leave their cellphones at home. Students needing to contact their parent/ guardian during the school day will be able to do so from the front office.

Students electing to bring a cellphone to school do so at their own risk and the School will not be held liable for any loss or damage incurred. Students need to turn off their phones, or place them on silent, and lock them in their locker.

3. Contravention of the Cellphone Policy

The use of a cellphone during school time (i.e. between 07:45 and 15:00, including break time and homework lessons) without permission will result in the phone (and sim card) being confiscated. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to collect the phone from the school office. Cellphones may be confiscated for a period not exceeding two (2) weeks. This period may be shortened, depending on the nature of the contravention.

Misuse or illegal use of a cellphone (e.g. taking inappropriate photographs) will result in further disciplinary measures being taken. Such measures will be in line with the Code of Conduct.

4. Confiscation of Cellphones

Cellphones must be confiscated with their sim cards. Cellphones need to be turned off and placed in a zip-lock bag along with a completed Cellphone Confiscation Form. Confiscated cellphones must be placed in the school safe and may not be kept in classrooms. The student's parent/ guardian must be emailed before the end of the school day regarding the confiscation. The email must provide the reason for the confiscation of the cellphone, as well as the date upon which the cellphone will be returned. A cellphone may be confiscated for seven (7) to fourteen (14) days, depending on the nature of the infringement.

Parents/ guardians coming to collect a confiscated cellphone need to do so via the front office. Students are not permitted to collect a confiscated cellphone. Parents need to sign that they have received the cellphone. This form will be collected and filed by the Discipline Coordinator.

5. Tests and Examinations

The use of cellphones during tests or examinations is strictly prohibited.

5.1. Internal Tests and Examinations

Students caught using their phone during an internal test/examination will receive 0% and may be subject to further disciplinary procedures.

5.2. External Tests and Examinations

Students caught using a cellphone during an external exam will be penalized according to the rules of the examination board.

6. Concessions

6.1. Medical/ Trauma

Students with medical conditions or who have undergone traumatic experiences may be permitted to carry a cellphone. Supporting documentation will need to be provided.

6.2. Permission from the Class Teacher

Students who need to use their phones for educational purposes (i.e. an educational task set by their subject teacher) may do so if they have permission from the class teacher. This permission needs to be received at the beginning of each lesson and cannot be presumed. Permission should only be granted if no other suitable devices are available. Students who use their phones for educational purposes may sign into the BIS Student Wi-Fi.