Te Whānau o Ōtūmatua School Board

Ākonga Cell Phone Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that cell phones are used appropriately by ākonga in a manner that supports learning, wellbeing, safety, and respect for others while at Te Whānau o Ōtūmatua.

1. Principles

This policy took effect from the beginning of Term 2, 2024.

We will ensure ākonga do not use or access a personal phone during the school day, 9.00 am - 3.00 pm.

1.1. Ākonga may use their personal phone in the following circumstances:
- 1.1.1. A phone is needed for health reasons (for example, to monitor insulin levels);
- 1.1.2. A phone is needed to help te ākonga with a learning support need (for example, to assist with impaired communication);
- 1.1.3. A kaiako requires ākonga to use phones for a specific educational task or purpose (for example, a class assignment);
- 1.1.4. An explicit exemption is granted by staff for Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) outings or community trips; or
- 1.1.5. The tumuaki decides that they are needed for special circumstances.

1.2. Cell phones may be used in the residential setting as part of ngā ākonga individual programmes.

2. Storage

As Te Whānau o Ōtūmatua is a residential school, ākonga are required to leave their cell phones safely secured in their residential whare prior to the start of the school day at 9.00am.

Review Schedule

This policy will be reviewed according to the **Board's Review Schedule** or earlier if required due to legislative change or identified need.

Prepared by: Commissioner
Date of Approval: 13 November 2026
Review Date: November 2028
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