

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School Cell Phone Policy

We recognize that cell phones have become a common tool for communication. We recognize that for some families a phone is an important communication tool between students and parents/guardians before and after school. However, cell phones can also be a source of disruption, both in the classroom and on school trips. While students can carry cell phones to school, we ask that parents support our efforts for appropriate use by adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Cell phones, Apple watches and other smartwatches must be turned off and kept in zipped backpacks at all times during the school day when on school property. Students may not use cell phones in classrooms, hallways or on the playground during the school day, including during recesses and lunch. Cell phones can only be used outside of school property and outside of school hours. Exceptions may be made by the Principal for special needs or medical reasons.
2. The school takes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal cell phones, iPods/music players, iPads/tablets, Apple watches/smartwatches and/or any other electronic device. Parents send these items to school at their own risk.
3. In order to encourage positive social interaction, iPods and other music players are not to be used on the playground during recess and lunch.
4. In the event of an emergency, lockdown, or evacuation, the Principal will provide instruction to the school community pertaining to the acceptable use of cell phones in the particular emergency conditions.
5. The use of any cell phone in a manner that violates a person's reasonable expectation of privacy including, but not limited to, the use of change rooms or washrooms, or violates the protection of privacy provisions of individuals under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, is strictly prohibited and may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, dismissal, exclusion from Board premises and/or the involvement of the Toronto Police Service as appropriate.
6. The electronic transmission or posting of digital content (e.g. images, video, audio, and/or text etc.) is prohibited without the permission of the person or persons, and where the student is below the age of 18, the consent of the parent/guardian.
7. On local school trips, cell phones are not to be used and must stay in backpacks during the trip.
8. On school trips that are out of Toronto, or out of Province, cell phones are only to be used at approved communication times, which will be advised to parents and students prior to the trip.

If a student violates the cell phone policy, the following consequences will occur:

1. First Infraction – Student will have their cell phone taken and locked up in the office until a parent can come to the school to retrieve it.
2. Second Infraction – Student will no longer be allowed to bring a cell phone to school until a parent conference with the Principal is held.