



KANAHOOKA HIGH SCHOOL

Dharawal Country

Principal: Ms C Toohey Business Manager: Mrs S Richards
Deputy Principals: Ms J Burns Ms K Dunn Ms N Howes Mr A Kalsow

Kanahooka High School Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Information for Parents Term 4 2023

VALUING LEARNING AND WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Following consultation with the school community and directions from the Department of Education, adjustments have been made to the Kanahooka High School Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy.

At Kanahooka High School, while the increasing use and importance of mobile phones in our lives is recognised, processes have been well established over a long period of time to assist parents and caregivers to deliver messages to their children, which are of an urgent or important nature, without the need for students to have a mobile phone.

For parents who need to contact their child during class time, a call to the office is appropriate and always welcomed. Messages are delivered to students in a prompt manner. In general, mobile phones are not necessary for communication to and from students during school hours and we ask that this is respected by all.

At times before and after school, however, mobile phones offer students and their parents many advantages in terms of ease of communication and a sense of personal safety. For this reason, the school respects the need for students to carry mobile phones, provided students observe the following conditions and courtesies.

- Mobile phones and personal electronic devices are not to be used from the entry into the school GATES to the exit from the school GATES. The "GATE TO GATE" includes Recess, Lunch and sport on or off-site from 8.30am to 2.30pm. This includes making or receiving calls, sending, or receiving text messages, taking photographs or videos, recording conversations, to listen to music or any other unauthorised purpose.
- Mobile Phones/earbuds/Electronic communication devices must be kept at home and if brought to school must be kept in student bags.
- Students will be responsible for following this policy at all times.
- Exemptions based on Wellbeing or medical reasons will require documentation from parents and health professionals, students will apply for an exemption through the Deputy Principal and maybe approved by the Principal.

As with all valuable items, students are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school due to the potential for loss, misuse, theft, or damage of the item. Kanahooka High School cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to such items, including mobile phones. These items are brought to school at your own risk.

- Should a student have a mobile phone or electronic device at school, it must be turned off from "Gate to Gate" during lessons, recess and lunch and other school activities. It must be kept securely in the student's bag. This will ensure that there is no disruption to the school's learning environment.
- Students must not have any material stored on their mobile phones or electronic devices which is offensive, harmful, or illegal. It is an offence to possess images of illegal acts, such as fights, to have inappropriate images, to bully or intimidate others through the use of mobile phones (carriage service), or to record and upload images/video of people without their consent, on these devices. In such cases the school is required to confiscate mobile phones and refer the matter to police.
- Any student who brings a mobile phone or electronic device to school will be responsible for ensuring the above conditions and are observed. Incidents involving students failing to adhere to the Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy will result in consequences in accordance with the Kanahooka High School Discipline Policy.

Recently, we consulted with the school community regarding student mobile phone use by conducting surveys with staff, students, and parent/carers. A snapshot is provided below.

Staff report that inappropriate student mobile phone use is having significant negative impact on the learning environment throughout the day. Refer Figure 1.

5. On average, how many lessons per day would inappropriate student mobile phone use interrupt your lessons?

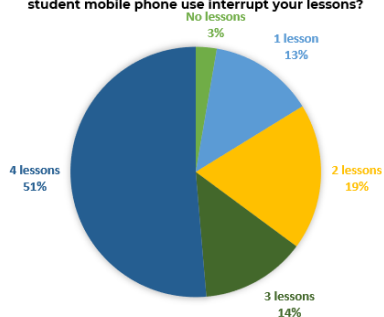


Figure 1.

Staff also reported that mobile phone are rarely or sometimes used for learning purposes. Refer Figure 2.

6. How often do you allow students to use their phone for learning purposes?

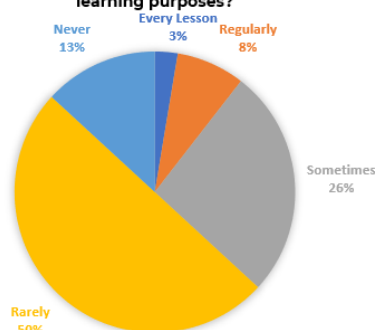
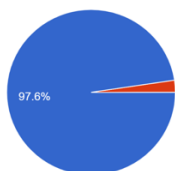


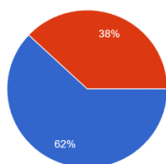
Figure 2.

Most students currently bring a mobile phone to school. Many bring wireless headphones to school, and some wear a smartwatch. Refer Figure 3.

1. Do you bring a mobile phone to school?
212 responses



2. Do you bring wireless headphones to school? e.g. AirPods, Beats, Bose etc
213 responses



3. Do you wear a smartwatch to school? e.g. Apple watch, Garmin etc
213 responses

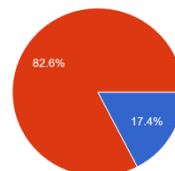
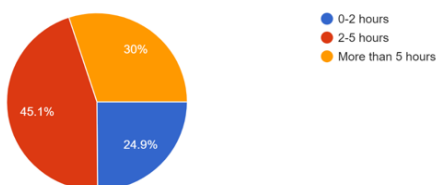


Figure 3.

Students report they are spending a significant amount of time on their phone per day. They also report that they do not use phones often for learning purposes. Refer Figure 4.

4. In an entire day (24 hours) approximately how many hours do you spend on you mobile device? (if you can, check in screen time settings)
213 responses



5. In a school day (from 8:30am - 2:30pm) approximately how many hours do you spend on your mobile phone for learning purposes?
212 responses

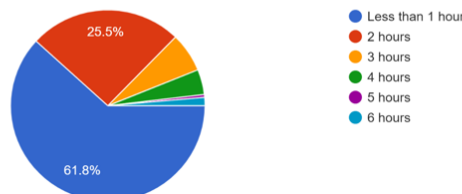
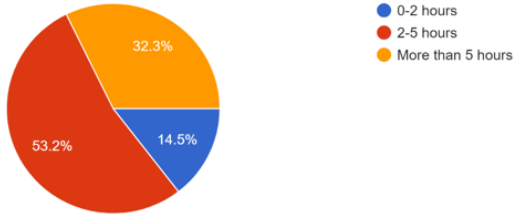


Figure 4.

Parents and carers were asked about their child's mobile phone use, and whether this was of concern. The amount of time was consistent with feedback from students. More than half of parents and carers were concerned at the amount of time their child spends on their phone. Refer Figure 5.

8. Approx. how much time does your child spend on their phone each day?
62 responses



9. Are you concerned about the amount of time your child spends on their mobile phone each day?
62 responses

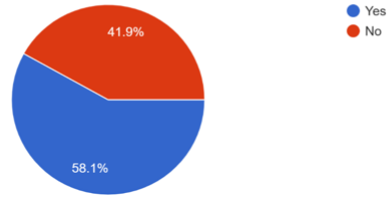


Figure 5.

Many parents and carers were aware of other schools in our region that have implemented gate-to-gate bans on mobile phones. Refer Figure 6.

12. Are you aware that other schools in our region have implemented gate-to-gate bans on mobile phones?
62 responses

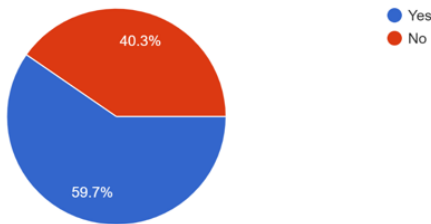


Figure 6.

In summary:

- Students must;
 - Keep Phones/Electronic communication devices and ear buds/headphones in their bag or at home. Gate to Gate, when they enter or exit the school grounds.
 - Follow the school's discipline code should students choose not to adhere to the Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

C. Toohey
Principal