

JKCS Cell Phone Policy

August, 2024

As the use and prevalence of cell phones continue to increase among our students and families, our school wants to engage with our community to promote the healthy use of cell phones. While cell phones are a tool that can be used positively, they also have the potential to be very distracting.

This policy was formed and implemented based on current research, provincial suggestions, and JKCS staff and student experience. Our policy implementation coincides with a Ministry of Education push to enforce mobile device restrictions in schools.

- A [2023 UNESCO report](#) found a negative link between excessive cellphone use and student academic performance, stating that students can take up to 20 minutes to refocus on what they are learning after focusing on a distraction.
- A CAMH study on youth, smartphones and social media use showed that over a third (35%) of Ontario's secondary school students spend five hours or more daily on electronic devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops, computers, gaming consoles) in their free time.
- JKCS teachers have noted increased cell phone issues despite collecting them inside classrooms daily. The sneaky use of cell phones in bathrooms, at recess, on buses, and in the parking lot has led to student discipline issues and social concerns. The "policing" of cell phones has become a distraction from learning.

To foster a safe and focused learning environment, students at JKCS are not permitted to bring cell phones, smart watches, or other personal electronics to school. This means all cell phones and smart watches must remain at home. This policy extends to school buses and field trips. Students in Grades 5-8 should still bring their Chromebooks daily and must be signed into their JKCS account at all times.

Should parents need to contact their child, our school's staff will be pleased to deliver a message or have your child call you from a private office in the main office. Should unusual circumstances require a short-term arrangement to support emergency measures that cannot be solved by calling the school, please contact the school's office. No emergency arrangements may be made or implemented unless approved by the administration. We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we continue to ensure a focused and exciting learning environment for all our students and staff.