



Heartfield Education Phone Use Policy

Purpose

At Heartfield, we believe in helping young people develop the **skills and judgment to manage technology wisely**. Phones are powerful tools, but they can also distract from deep learning, real connection, and wellbeing. Our policy balances **personal responsibility with community needs**, preparing students for digital life beyond school.

🔑 Core Principles

1. **Presence matters** – We value focus, face-to-face interaction, and meaningful engagement.
2. **Responsibility grows with freedom** – Students earn greater tech privileges as they demonstrate maturity.
3. **Technology is a tool, not a toy** – When used intentionally, phones can support learning and creativity.
4. **Community over convenience** – Our shared environment depends on mutual respect and boundaries.

✓ Daily Expectations

- All students to hand phones to a staff member on arrival to be locked in the phone cabinet for safety
- To collect their phone when leaving Heartfield for the day



🚫 Not Allowed During Learning Time

- Messaging, social media, or gaming
- Taking photos/videos of others without consent
- AirPods in ears without staff approval
- Using phones to avoid participation or focus

✓ Appropriate Phone Use (With Permission)

- Research, calculators, language tools
- Filming learning projects or presentations

📣 Co-Created Agreements

Each term, students will:

- Review this policy in community meetings
- Suggest refinements based on experience
- Reflect on their digital habits and responsibilities



Consequences for Misuse

We favour **restorative conversations** over punishment. If phone use becomes a persistent issue, the following steps may be taken:

1. **Reminder and reflection** with staff
2. **Temporary restriction** of privileges
3. **Meeting with parents/carers** and plan for rebuilding trust

Storage & Safety

- Phones are stored in Heartfield's phone cabinet or left at home.
- Students may request access in emergencies at any time.
- Devices remain students' personal property but are used under shared community norms.

Digital Literacy & Wellbeing

We will provide workshops and discussions on:

- Digital citizenship
- Managing distractions and dopamine
- Consent and digital boundaries
- Healthy screen habits