Rivers International School Arnhem

# Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy






***Rationale***

*Technology and communication tools are undeniably a part of the XXI century world and have an important  place in the future of education.*

*At Rivers International School Arnhem, we believe in the importance of this and we are very aware of the need to promote safe and respectful online behaviour. This is crucial for the well-being and academic success of our students and staff.*

*As a school we have a duty of care and safety for all and in this policy we set our guidelines for the appropriate* ***use of cellphones and any other network connected devices (or any devices on which you can take photos or videos) within our school.***

*The policy is a collective agreement amongst all staff, shared with the Rivers Primary MR and parents.*

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## Bringing mobile phones/devices to school

It is up to parents to decide if their child may have a mobile phone/smart watch etc outside of school.

There is no legal age regulation in the Netherlands.

A child may bring a phone/smart watch to our school based on **strict necessity** - e.g. they may be in an unsupervised situation travelling to and from school.
If a child needs to bring a phone/smart watch to school, it needs to be switched off during school hours, kept in their bag or a designated place as instructed by the teacher.

The phones can be switched back on after leaving the building.

- Children should not bring their phones/smart watches on school trips
- Children should not use their phones to view social media in the school building or take photographs of each other.

We encourage parents to have a conversation with their children about this.

## Liability and insurance

If children do bring devices to school, ***the school is not liable*** for loss or damage.

## Communication

Students, as well as staff, are expected to behave in an respectful and considerate manner when using any electronic devices.

Taking photos or videoing within the school building by any Rivers pupil is not allowed (unless specific instructions have been given by the teacher and appropriate permissions are in place).

While using devices for social media, any cyberbullying, harassment, or any form of negative online interaction will be considered a violation of this policy and will result in appropriate disciplinary actions.

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## Staff Use

Mobile phone communication is a tool for staff used for smooth and quick sending out of information about the daily running of the school.
However, staff use of mobile phones during their working day should be discreet (for example, in teacher breaks) and professionally appropriate.

It is preferred that the phone is not used in the presence of pupils and phones should be on silent.

*Photographs:*
A member of staff should not use their phone to photograph or film a pupil(s) or allow themselves to be photographed by pupils on their phones.
Events and celebrations for See Saw may be considered.

Info on pupils who can / cannot be photographed is accessible through Google drive.

*Staff and parents contact with mobile phones:*
Social Schools App is accessible on a smart phone. Staff can access this during the day. Flores are considering a business device for all staff

Staff contact with parents from their personal mobile phone is at the individual discretion of all staff and with an awareness of the implications of this.
Not all teachers choose to share their number with parents.
No other staff member may share another staff member's number.

## Parents, visitors and volunteers

Volunteers and parent helpers are to follow the same guidelines as staff members.

Parents, Visitors or Volunteers in school or accompanying children on school trips should not use their mobile phone cameras/devices to take pictures of pupils.

Parents should not share any photos of other families' children taken during school hours on social media without permission.

We encourage parents to have a conversation with their children if they have chosen not to give permission for their children to be in school photos.

Nor should they share any teacher related information e.g. phone numbers or photos with other parents without the teacher´s prior permission.

The reception desk phone is available for use as well as some other landlines in the school to use for contacting parents.

*Please be mindful of the atmosphere we have created here at Rivers and keep personal phone use to a minimum within the school building.*