



# Kuratau School

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Next review: Term 4 2025

## Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

A personal **digital device** is any privately owned digital device that is not part of any school-approved Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme.

Kuratau School strongly recommends students do not bring these devices to school with them. We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school, cellphones will be available for students once the school day finishes.

We discuss the school rules about personal digital devices at the beginning of the year, and throughout the year as needed. Any changes to our school rules are communicated to students and our school community.

### Parent/Caregiver and student responsibilities

Smartwatches should not be used to communicate with parents/caregivers during classtime. If a parent/caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office.

If a student brings a personal digital device to our school, the following guidelines apply:

- The school does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen personal digital devices brought to the school but investigates any issues as appropriate.
- Our approach is “away for the day”, meaning the device should be turned off, and handed in to the teacher to be locked away during the school day. If a student does bring their cellphone for emergency contact or health reasons, these must be handed to the teacher to be locked away for the day.
- There may be times when students will be able to access and use their cellphones. However, this is the exception and will always be monitored by teaching staff. If cellphones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member. Guidelines on appropriate usage still apply.

Whilst on school trips, phones should be switched off and placed in student bags. Permission may be sought to use the camera, but other mobile features should not be accessed.

Students are expected to follow our **Digital Technology and Online Safety** policy when using personal digital devices on school property or the school network.

### Inappropriate use

If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately, we confiscate it. After the student locks the device, we place it in the office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian. If a student uses a cellphone inappropriately multiple times in a week the cellphone will be confiscated and can only be retrieved by a parent or caregiver following a discussion with the principal or deputy principal.

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device may include:

- using the device when not permitted
- any sort of bullying, including **online bullying**

- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission
- forwarding inappropriate messages or content.

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device is managed through the school **Behaviour Management, Responding to Digital Incidents**, and **Surrender and Retention of Personal Digital Devices** policies and procedures, as appropriate.

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### Related topics

- **Digital Technology and Online Safety**
- **Bullying**
- **Personal Property and Insurance**

**Release history:** [Term 1 2024](#), [Term 1 2023](#), [Term 2 2020](#)

<b>Last review</b>	Term 4 2022
<b>Topic type</b>	Core