

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC AND RECORDING DEVICES

Preamble

The Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan) believes that cell phones and other digital devices can play a vital role in educational or during emergency situations. However, the Board believes that the use of cell phones or other communication/wireless devices should in no way interfere with learning and the operation of the school, or the safety and privacy of students and staff. In personal emergencies, parents/guardians/employers can access their children through the school office.

Policy

The Board of Education requires that the personal use of electronic devices does not interfere with the personal safety of students and staff, the learning environment, and operation of the school.

Policy Objective

1. To protect the privacy of all individuals within the school setting.
2. To prevent interference of the learning process.
3. To prevent cyberbullying.

Administrative Procedures

Students may carry personal electronic devices but these devices must be turned off inside school buildings, on school buses, at school sponsored activities and on field trips. In these locations personal electronic devices may be only used during emergencies, or as instructed by school personnel.

No personal electronic devices will be permitted in the washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, shower rooms or in other environments where their use could create discomfort and embarrassment to the school population.

No images of students or staff in schools or at associated facilities or activities are to be uploaded to school, public or private websites without the written consent of the person or persons and/or their parents or guardians, in the photograph or video.

Use of personal electronic devices is permitted only at the discretion of the staff.

Discipline

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary measures and temporary confiscation of the personal electronic device. Administration will use progressive discipline reflective of the age and maturity of the student, any special needs, and the severity and frequency of the unacceptable conduct. Administration may refer to guidelines established under Policy 5100.