

ANNEXURE E: CELLPHONE POLICY

The Governing Body was left with no alternative but to reconsider the existing cellphone policy during a meeting on 30 October 2008. The following problems presently being experienced with cellphones were identified and discussed at length.

- learners listening to music during lessons;
- cellphones ringing in the classroom;
- the dangers inherent in the instant message system, MXit
- the dangers of cellphone pornography and pornographic material learners may have on their phones;
- the risk of learners being accosted, injured and robbed of their cellphones;
- the continual confrontation when teachers confiscate cellphones used during lessons;
- the hours spent investigating incidents when cellphones go missing during lessons or at break;
- learners who steal one another's sim cards and airtime.

The Governing Body formulated and approved the new cellphone policy at this meeting. The policy is as follows:

1. No learner may be in possession of a cellphone from the time that he/she enters the schoolground in the morning, until he/she leaves the school premises.
2. The school accepts no responsibility for cellphones that are lost at after-school activities or at weekends. Parents must report these incidents to the police themselves should they wish to file an insurance claim.
3. The sanctions decided on are as follows:

First offence: Parents/Guardians must collect the phone from the school.

Second offence: A fine of R50 will be charged. Parents/Guardians must collect the phone.

Third offence: The cellphones will be confiscated till the end of the year after which parents/guardians will be required to fetch it from the school.

Should a learner refuse to hand over a cellphone, this will be regarded as serious misconduct and he/she will be dealt with according to stipulations in the Code of Conduct.

4. No correspondence, interviews or negotiations will be entered into regarding the confiscated cellphone.
5. Telephones are available in the general office should a learner need to make an urgent call. The office will convey important messages to learners. In addition, there are coin and card-operated telephones installed at the school which may be used by the learners in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

This document has been added to the Code of Conduct as school policy on cellphones.