

UPDATE: CELL PHONE POLICY AT LSK 2024-25



LSK will be following the new provincial directive banning the use of cell phones in the classroom. Under the new policy, the following measures will be followed:

- Students in Grades K4-6 must have their cell phones turned off and stored for the entire school day.
- Students in Grades 7-12 must have their cell phones turned off and stored during instructional time. Limited use of cell phones will be permitted during recess, lunch, and after-school activities.
- Cell phones are not permitted in washrooms or change rooms at any time.
- LSK will follow a progressive policy toward cell phones, based on the number of times a student improperly uses their phone.

PROGRESSIVE POLICY

- **First time** - The student is reminded of the policy. The student then stores their phone out of sight.
- **Second time:** The student is reminded of the policy. The student then drops their phone in the office lockbox, and can pick it up at the end of the day. Families are contacted and reminded of the policy.
- **Third time** -The student drops their phone off in the office lockbox. Families are contacted & parents/guardians must pick the phone up.
- **Fourth+ time:** A meeting is set up between the school team and family to create a plan for the student regarding use of their phone.



“When the Bell Starts the Day, the Phones Go Away”

FAQ



Q: Why is this policy happening now?

A: The Nova Scotia Government has announced a ban on cell phones in all schools to begin in the 2024-25 school year. The ban came after consultation of over 800 school advisory councils, educational leaders, and child psychologists, which found that cell phones in the classroom are extremely disruptive to student learning. You can read more about the provincial directive at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones>

Q: Where does my child's phone get stored during the day?

A: We encourage students to leave their phone in their locker during class time. All classrooms will also have a cell phone pocket holder at the front of each class, where students can leave their phones as they enter the room. Students also have the option to leave their phones at home during the school day.

Q: My child uses their phone to keep in touch with me throughout the day. How am I supposed to reach them in case of an emergency?

A: You can call the school during the day at (902) 236-3041. If you need to get in touch with your child we will page them down immediately so they can speak to you.

Q: Sometimes I need to contact them for non-emergency purposes, and I usually text them for this.

A: Remember, your child is in school to learn. If you are texting your child during school hours you are disrupting their learning.

FAQ



Q: I don't want anyone touching my child's phone.

A: LSK will be practicing a “hands-off” approach to cell phones. Students themselves will be responsible to store their phones during class time. If a student's phone must be taken as per the progressive policy, they themselves will place it in a lockbox in the main office for safekeeping.

Q: My child uses their phone to help regulate their anxiety.

A: Unless the cell phone is listed as an accommodation as part of a student's IEP, they will not be permitted during class time. If your child's anxiety is causing disruptions to their learning, we encourage you to contact the school to set up a plan for your child's success.

Q: Cell phones are a legitimate tool that people use in their daily lives. Won't banning cell phones harm my child's development?

A: While we recognize that cell phones are a tool in people's daily lives in 2024, studies show the benefits of cell phone use in school are far outweighed by the harm caused by distractions and disruptions to student's attention spans.

At LSK we are proud to offer students use of alternate technological devices like laptops, Chromebooks, and iPads. Teachers will incorporate this technology into their lessons so that students still receive education using 21st century skills and technologies.