



Unity Christian High School

Unity Christian High School Cell Phone Policy - Established August 2024

At Unity Christian High School our mission is to have every student, Believe, Belong and Thrive! Our school mission articulates that we care for the spiritual, social/emotional and academic well-being and success of each of our students. The evidence is clear that cell phones have a negative impact on both the academic performance of students, as well as their social and emotional health. Cell phones are a significant distraction for many students in the classroom. The persistent and habitual use of cell phones also causes negative emotional and social health impacts, especially as it relates to the use of social media.

At Unity it is our desire to deliver a relevant, future-focused and engaging experience and we will continue to do that through the integration and use of laptops in the learning environment. In response to the growing challenges associated with the use of cell phones and the distractions that they cause, Unity Christian High School has established the following policy:

- Cell phones will not be permitted in the classroom or PAC (chapels, music classes) and must be left in the student's locker. They must be left in the off or silent position. Please note that any other digital communications devices, that cause a distraction or disruption to learning in the classroom may also be confiscated. At this time smart watches and tablets will be permitted, unless they become a problem. Only laptops will be permitted in the classroom as needed and directed by the teacher, but again, please note that if these are used in ways that do not support learning they could be confiscated too, but we hope and trust that our students will use them wisely.
- Cell phones can be used in the school until the warning bell prior to the start of the school day. After the bell, cell phones must stay in the student locker until lunch time. Phones may be used from 12:13 p.m. until the warning bell at the end of lunch time at 12:46 p.m. Please note that the use of cell phones is not permitted during spares either. If you have a spare and need to use your phone, you will need to leave the school property or come to the office for permission. (We recommend that all students lock their locker to secure their devices.)
- Cell phones may not be in backpacks or in pockets except before school, at lunch time and after school.
- Cell phones may never be brought into the washrooms. This is both a school policy but also a privacy issue.
- Only the teacher or administrator can provide exceptions to this policy and only for extenuating circumstances such as possibly on a class trip where permission has been specifically granted.

Consequences of using your cell phone other than at the allowed times will be as follows:

- On the first offense, the cell phone (or digital communications device) will be immediately confiscated by the teacher or administrator. The device will be brought to the office and returned to the student at the end of the day.
- On the second offense the device will again be confiscated and will only be returned to the student after a face to face or phone conversation with the parents and the student.
- On the third offense the device will be confiscated and will only be returned to the parent or guardian once a meeting has been held to discuss this ongoing issue.

Parents are asked to call the school office for assistance if you need to reach your children during the school day.