

Electronic Devices Policy

(including mobile phones, laptops, iPods, MP3 players)

As technology rapidly changes, teachers must manage both their potential as learning technologies and the difficulties they can present in schools. Their fashion status and cost make them attractive to thieves. As electronic devices provide instant communication, students may text, call or access internet sites at inappropriate times which can distract from learning. Camera and video capabilities mean that they pose an additional issue when used to invade others' privacy or display or distribute illegal material.

UNDERDALE High School's Policy on the use of mobile phones and personal devices is as follows:

1. Teachers will establish class rules so as to ensure effective management of the learning environment; especially that students give their full attention to their learning and are not disrupted by others using technology devices in class.
2. **Electronic devices need to be switched off** unless it has been negotiated with the teacher for reasons such as:
 - the student is expecting an urgent phone call
 - the teacher has instructed that the device to be used as it is appropriate for the learning task.
3. If the devices are not used according to these guidelines, then the teacher has the right to confiscate the device for either the rest of the lesson or the rest of the day (if this is the case the student is to collect the device from the front office).
4. The phone or personal device is brought to school at the student's own risk. We advise students to keep such items in zip pockets on their person. (If the phone or personal device is stolen, the school will not invest any extra-ordinary time to investigate the theft.)
5. Electronic devices may be used during recess and lunch breaks (unless it has been confiscated by a teacher for the day), according to the law. They may not be used to illegally record images or footage of others, to record and publish fights or to display or distribute illegal material, such as explicit images.
6. We do not allow individual students to be exempted from the general rules about electronic device use at school; parents who have concerns about this policy should contact the school and arrangements can be made to ensure that their child is contactable while at school.