



RHENISH GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL CELL PHONE POLICY

In line with the requirements of the Western Cape Education Department that schools urgently develop a Policy which enables teaching and learning – the main business of every school – to take place unhampered by distractions from cell phones, i-pods and/or other similar devices – the School Governing Body and the Staff of this school ask that parents encourage learners to comply fully with the following simple requirements which now form part of the negotiated Code of Conduct of the School:

Preamble: it is agreed upon by the entire school community and all of its stake-holders that the chief business of this school is teaching and learning. To enable this to take place, the use of cell phones, i-pods, etc. needs to be controlled and managed so that nothing wastes time in class; poses a security risk; threatens – in any way – the well-being of any learner or educator, or leads to a valuable item being lost. The school recognizes that girls and parents would like to be able to contact each other after school hours and it is as a result of this that –

- 1 Every day girl will be issued with an initially free cell phone locker, installed at the school's expense, in the school building. This locker will take a cell phone and/or i-pod and cash and/or other small items. (Boarders are not permitted to bring cell phones, i-pods etc. to school at all – they have access to them in the hostel after school).
- 2 Every day girl will be issued with a unique key to a numbered locker. This key must please be carried on its original lanyard and not transferred to another ring.
- 3 Should a key be lost, R50 will be charged to fit another lock to ensure the security of the system.
- 4 All cell phones, i-pods, MP3 players and similar devices must be SWITCHED OFF and placed in the correct locker by 07:40 each morning and not removed from there until after school each day. Locking up of phones, etc. may NEVER be used as an excuse for being late for class/ lines/ Assembly.
- 5 **Cell phones, i-pods, MP3 players and similar devices – whether switched on or off - are therefore not permitted in the school at all, at any time during the school day and will be confiscated if found. Cell phones may never be carried in a bag, pocket or other receptacle by a learner.**
- 6 Should any girl need to contact her parent urgently during the school day, she may come to the office and she will be allowed to use the phone.
- 7 Should a parent need to contact a child urgently during the school day, the office may be contacted and the school will get a message to the child concerned.
- 8 Girls are expected to exercise care in not leaving their cell phone lockers open, or the key in the lock.

- 9 We ask that every girl and every parent assist the school in what we trust will be a significant move to improve upon our over-all academic delivery in this school.
- 10 **Should a cell phone be confiscated, it will be held in safe-keeping for a two-week period, at the end of which a parent may collect the phone from the principal.**