

# Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media Policy

Eastside Christian Academy

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## Policy administration

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2024

**Approved by:** ECA Board of Directors

**Review Cycle:** Biannual

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## Policy Overview

### Purpose

Eastside Christian Academy (ECA) restricts personal mobile device and social media use during instructional time for Kindergarten to Grade 9. The goal is to reduce distractions, maximize learning, support student mental health, and minimize cyberbullying. Exceptions are allowed for health, medical, or special learning needs, as determined by the principal.

### Rationale

- Extensive feedback from parents, teachers, and education partners, as well as a ministerial order, supports these restrictions.
  - Surveys and research show:
    - 85% believe cellphones negatively impact achievement.
    - 81% believe cellphones increase bullying.
    - 58% of parents see negative mental health impacts.
  - Scientific studies link excessive device and social media use to distraction, poor sleep, depression, and impaired academic performance.
  - Research shows banning cellphones improves academic outcomes, especially for girls and those from low socio-economic backgrounds.
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## Policy Details

### General Rules

- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 9 may not use personal mobile devices during instructional time.
- Devices must be kept silent, powered off, and out of view unless permitted for health, medical, or special learning needs.
- Instructional time includes all scheduled learning, exams, and supervised activities.

- “Personal mobile device” includes cellphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches.

## Exceptions

- Permitted for health/medical reasons or special learning needs.
- May be allowed for educational purposes at the principal’s discretion.
- Laptops are included to prevent pairing with phones for social media access.

## Social Media Restrictions

- School networks and devices restrict access to social media platforms.
  - Limited access may be permitted by the principal.
  - School authorities determine which platforms are restricted and manage exceptions.
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## Implementation & Enforcement

- Students must store personal mobile devices in the main office during instructional time.
  - Roles and responsibilities for enforcement are defined for students, parents, teachers, and the principal.
  - Non-compliance results in consequences, including parent notification.
  - Annual notification of the policy is provided to parents and students.
  - Staff are exempt from restrictions if required for work purposes.
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## Communication & Support

- ECA communicates policies clearly to staff, students, parents, and the school community.
  - Parents are encouraged to discuss responsible technology use, privacy, and online safety with their children.
  - The policy aligns with government standards and ECA’s commitment to a safe, focused learning environment.
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## Authorization

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**