

Niakwa Place School Cell Phone Guidelines 2026–27

In accordance with the LRSD Use of Cell Phones in Schools Policy (GBEF/JICJ) and the ministerial directive dated August 15, 2024, Niakwa Place School is committed to promoting the appropriate and responsible use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices. These guidelines are intended to reduce distractions in classrooms, minimize the potentially harmful effects of social media and online platforms, and support safe, focused, and respectful learning environments.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours, including breaks and lunch. Devices with functions similar to cell phones, such as tablets and smart watches, will be treated in the same manner.

The following exceptions may be authorized to support student safety, medical needs, or diverse learning needs:

- Students who require access to a cell phone or other personal device for a specific medical or learning need will have this accommodation documented in the student's Individual Health Care Plan or Student-Specific Plan and communicated to relevant staff.

The school assumes no responsibility for the loss, destruction, damage, or theft of any cell phone or other personal device, nor for any communication costs associated with its use, whether authorized or unauthorized. Students and families are responsible for locating lost or stolen devices.

Parents and guardians are expected to support their child's adherence to these guidelines and reinforce appropriate and responsible cell phone use at school.

Common Cell Phone Practices

- Students are encouraged to leave their cell phones at home.
- Students who choose to bring a cell phone to school must store it in their locker (Grades 7 and 8) or backpack (Kindergarten to Grade 6) throughout the school day unless its use has been specifically authorized by school staff in accordance with these guidelines.
- Cell phones must be turned off or placed in silent mode while stored.
- During instructional time and scheduled supervision, school staff will not use personal cell phones unless required for teaching and learning, such as translation or documentation, or for student safety or emergency purposes.
- School office staff will facilitate communication between students and their parents or guardians during the school day when an emergency or urgent need arises.
- Students and staff will follow all terms of LRSD Policy IJNDC – Internet and Information Systems Use: Staff and Students.
- Consent must be obtained before photographing or recording another person's image or voice.

- Student cell phone use is prohibited during lockdowns unless specifically directed by school staff or emergency personnel.
- Cell phones and other personal devices may not be used in washrooms or changerooms at any time.

Response to Unauthorized Student Cell Phone Use

- School staff will use appropriate opportunities to educate students about the effects of cell phones and social media on engagement, learning, personal well-being, privacy, and responsible digital citizenship.
- Students will be reminded of the school's cell phone guidelines and expectations.
- Teachers will communicate concerns to parents or guardians and seek their support in reinforcing appropriate and responsible cell phone use.
- Further interventions, including disciplinary consequences, will align with the principles outlined in LRSD Policy JK – Supporting Student Behaviour.
- All interventions will preserve the dignity, self-worth, and right to privacy of everyone involved.

Communication and Annual Review

These guidelines will be communicated to the whole school community, including students, staff, parents, and guardians, through appropriate school communication channels. Expectations will also be reviewed with students and staff throughout the school year as needed.

The school community will be provided with an opportunity to offer feedback as part of an annual review of these guidelines. Feedback from students, staff, parents, and guardians will be considered when determining whether revisions are needed.

Questions or concerns regarding these guidelines may be addressed through the LRSD Protocol for Resolution of Concerns (Procedure G).