

Darwin School Cellphone Policy 2026-27

Darwin Families,

Darwin School aims to create a focused and conducive learning environment. This policy aims to enhance student focus and promote healthy social interactions without the distractions of cell phones, as well as support appropriate and responsible use. In alignment with the [Louis Riel School Division's Cell Phone Use in Schools Policy \(GBEF/JICJ\)](#) and the [Ministerial Directive](#) issued on August 15, 2024, we are sharing an update on our school's expectations regarding cell phone use.

- **Expectations for cell phones:**
 - Cellphones are not permitted for use during school hours (8:30 AM - 3:30 PM), including lunchtime. Students may only use their phones outside of instructional hours.
 - Students are responsible for securing cellphones in their designated lockers.
 - Lockers must always be locked to prevent theft or damage.
 - **Students attending Darwin for IA/HEIA** are permitted to have a cell phone with them but must keep their device out of sight while in class.
 - Exceptions in special circumstances, such as medical needs or for use as a communication device, cellphones may be used with prior approval by school administration.
- **Response to Misuse:**
 - If a cell phone is being used at an inappropriate time, staff will remind them of storage and use expectations. Continued misuse will require further steps, including temporary storage of the phone and communication with parents/guardians, following divisional policy for [supporting student behaviour](#).
- **Communication with parents:**
 - Communication between parents/guardians and students during the school day is to take place through the school office.
- **Staff Cellphone Use:**
 - Staff members are not to use cell phones for personal use during instructional time and while supervising students to maintain a focused learning environment.
- **Privacy Considerations:**
 - All Darwin community members must comply with Policy IJNDC regarding the use of technology, including obtaining consent before photographing or recording individuals. Cell phone use in changing rooms and washrooms is prohibited.
- **Accountability:**
 - Darwin School will assume no responsibility in any circumstances for the loss, destruction, damage, or theft of any cell phone, nor for any communication costs associated with the use of such devices, whether authorized or not. Students and families are responsible for locating such lost or stolen items.
- **Ongoing Communication and Review:**
 - Questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this policy should be directed at school administration. Families may also wish to appeal a decision related to this policy shall follow the steps outlined in the [LRSD Protocol for Resolution of Concerns](#) access the appeal process outlined in Procedure GBEF of the [Use of Cell Phones in Schools Policy](#).
 - This policy will be reviewed annually and shared with the entire school community. As always, we appreciate your support as we continue to support appropriate use of cell phones that prioritize a positive learning environment by ensuring safety and lessening distractions.

Respectfully,

Erin Enns & Lisa Monson
Darwin Administration

