

Diefenbaker Personal Technology Policy

Diefenbaker Elementary sees the advancement of technological options for families and individuals as a positive development that can promote independence in the larger community while keeping students safe. Diefenbaker is supportive of family decisions around the use of cellular technology outside of school hours. Students bringing any Personal Technology Devices (phones, tablets, iPods) to school do so at their own risk, as we cannot be responsible for loss or damage to them.

Within the school, **the use of personal technology devices (cell phones, tablets, iPods) will not be permitted during the hours of 8:30 to 2:38. This includes the recess and lunch breaks.** If parents need to send a message to their son or daughter during school hours they are able to phone the office and the message will be passed on. It is expected that student phones are turned off and kept safely in student lockers (by using a lock) during school hours if they are brought to school. On occasion, classroom teachers may allow students to use this technology as a learning enhancement. Students will be made aware when their personal devices are to be used in these situations.

There are several reasons for this policy.

1. Diefenbaker Elementary has landline phones available in every classroom for staff use. With permission, students may use these phones when necessary.
2. The ease of contact to parents that cell phones provide the students, inhibits the developing ability of children to handle small frustrations for short periods of time.
3. Use of personal technology devices during class time by students, staff and parents conflicts with our Social Responsibility guidelines of being respectful and responsible in our work / learning environment. Receiving or answering cell phones (or texting) is a disturbance to classrooms and an interruption to learning.
4. Student use of personal technology devices (cell phones, tablets, iPods) during the recess and lunch time breaks cannot be monitored by staff.
5. Personal technology devices have a variety of features that can infringe on others rights of privacy, such as video and still photo capabilities, recording capabilities.

Consequences for Contravening These Statements

- 1) First Offense: The device will be confiscated and taken to the office until the end of the day.
- 2) Second Offense: The device will be confiscated until the end of the day and the administration or the child's teacher will contact a parent.
- 3) Third Offense: The device will be confiscated and kept at the office until a parent or guardian comes to the school to retrieve it.
- 4) Fourth (and any subsequent offense): Will be dealt with by the family and the administration on a case-by-case basis.