



LCS Personal Device Policy

Purpose

Lethbridge Christian School desires students to be fully present and connected to others in our community, particularly other students and staff. LCS acknowledges that personal devices can and do negatively impact the quality of an individual's presence and connection, this being particularly true for students in elementary and middle school. This policy is intended to maximize presence and connection while minimizing distractions for students at our school.

Context

This policy was created in the context of Alberta Ministerial Order #014/2024 "Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices in Schools" and Lethbridge School Division procedure 607.4.2 Personal Mobile Device and Social Media Use in Schools.

Personal Device Definition

A personal mobile device includes, but is not limited to:

- Any device that has internet access, texting, music, or gaming capabilities.
- Personal Laptops, Smartphones, Smart watches, and other wearable technologies are considered personal digital devices.
- Ear buds and headphones are included as accessories to personal digital devices

School Expectations

- Students are encouraged to leave their devices at home.
- Personal devices that are brought to school are to be stored in backpacks on coat hooks, in the early grades and in lockers in the older grades.
- Students are **not** to access personal devices throughout the day including during break times and washroom breaks.
- Only students with medical conditions requiring access to device (i.e. diabetes) and/or have a documented ISP accommodation will be permitted to use personal digital devices in class in collaboration with and under the supervision of the classroom teacher and/or educational assistant.

- Students are expected to not bring personal devices on extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. When these occur outside of school hours, the school will provide families with a reasonable means of communication. This is not necessarily a direct communication with someone at the activity.

Disciplinary Measures

Students not abiding by this policy will be addressed in the following manner:

1. **First Offence:** Students **may** be given an initial warning at the discretion of a teacher/staff member, or the personal device will be confiscated and kept at the front office until the end of the school day. The student may retrieve device at the end of the day. Teacher will contact parents/guardians at the end of the school day to discuss strategies and solutions in helping the student to follow the policy
2. **Second Offence:** Personal device will be kept at the front office until the end of the school day. A parent/guardian must retrieve device from front office. Contact with parents/guardians by administration on strategies and solutions in helping the student to follow the procedures.
3. **Third and Subsequent Offences:** Repeated offences will be treated as a refusal to comply with the rules of the school and dealt with accordingly using disciplinary measures (detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension)

Communication with Students During the School Day

Parents/guardians who need to contact their child can contact the office and leave a message.