

# SES Personal Digital Device Guidelines

**We want our students to be healthy, happy, and engaged in their learning.**

**We encourage them to grow and reach their full potential.**

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To support learning at École Selkirk Elementary School, we have developed guidelines for the use of personal digital devices.

## Personal Digital Device Definition

- Any device that has internet access, texting, music, or gaming capabilities including, but not limited to a smart phone, a smart watch, a tablet, or a virtual reality device.

## Personal Digital Device Guidelines

École Selkirk Elementary School expect that devices remain at home. If this poses a challenge for your family, please follow these guidelines:

- Personal digital device is not on your person;
- Personal digital device needs to be given to their teacher for safekeeping;
- Personal Digital Device cannot be used during school hours, which includes:
  - o *after getting off the bus in the morning,*
  - o *before getting on the bus at the end of the school day,*
  - o *morning and lunch recesses,*
  - o *lunch time or class time;*

## Misuse of Personal Digital Device

If a student is found with an electronic device without explicit permission, it will be confiscated by a staff member.

- First misuse: the supervising adult will collect the device and return it at the end of the day.
- Subsequent missuses: it will be taken to the office and must be collected by a parent or guardian.

We believe that both staff and parents/guardians play a crucial role in setting an example for the responsible use of personal electronic devices during school events. To support this, we encourage everyone—staff, parents, guardians, and visitors—to minimize the use of personal electronic devices while on school grounds. This helps us create a more focused and engaged environments for all participants.

## Use of Personal Digital Devices for Medical Purposes

The school acknowledges the vital role personal devices play for students with medical needs. To aid in the management of chronic conditions and facilitate communication with healthcare providers, students who require medical assistance will be permitted to use their personal devices as needed with prior approval from administration. Our goal is to maintain a balance between safety and accessibility, ensuring that all students receive the necessary support.

FAQs	Answers
<b>How can I reach my child if I need to contact them?</b>	In the event of an emergency, you can always contact your child through the office at 867-667-3688. The office will call your child so that you can connect with them. Students may contact parents using the office telephone if necessary.
<b>What will happen if my child is struggling with the new guidelines?</b>	Teachers will reach out to parents to work together to help your child understand the new guidelines. Teachers will connect with Administration for support if your child continues to struggle.
<b>Why are you implementing these guidelines?</b>	Research indicates that personal digital devices can be a significant distraction, hindering a child's ability to learn and work effectively (Barile, 2021). Evidence suggests that cell phone use is adversely affecting student learning, engagement, mental health, and overall social and emotional development. We believe these findings highlight the negative impact of cell phones on educational outcomes and well-being.

We believe in implementing these guidelines with care and compassion. We want to support our students in understanding how cell phones impact their learning and wellbeing. We also want to teach our students how to use cell phones appropriately and in a healthy way. Thank you for your support!

Approved by École Selkirk Elementary School Council on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.