



Fort Saskatchewan Christian School Personal Mobile Device Policy



Background

The ownership and use of a personal mobile device (PMD) has grown exponentially over the past decade. While personal devices offer potential opportunities for communication, information access and enhanced opportunities for instruction, personal mobile devices can also be a source of distraction that can negatively impact children's and student's mental health, engagement and learning. Regulated use of personal mobile devices in schools and throughout the Division is required to ensure the promotion of welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning and working environments. Appropriate use of personal mobile devices contributes to the safety and security of students and staff, minimizes risk to personal wellbeing and disruption to instruction, and protects personal privacy and academic integrity.

Personal mobile device (PMD) is defined as any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop or smartwatch.

Use of PMDs

Elementary students **shall not** access a PMD at school unless documentation is provided to the principal or designate that confirms the use is for a diagnosed health or medical condition, or an identified special learning need. Students will not have access to their PMD during any break periods – for example, recess, class breaks and lunch breaks.

Junior High students shall not access a PMD during instructional times unless:

- 1) documentation is provided to the principal or designate that confirms the use is for a diagnosed health or medical condition
- 2) documentation is provided to the principal or designate that confirms the use if for an identified special learning need.
- 3) given permission by the teacher for a specific educational task or purpose.

Examples of specific educational uses are:

- I. Doing a school project (ex. editing videos)
- II. Completing an interactive quiz
- III. Other activities at teacher discretion

Students in Junior High can access their PMD during break periods – for example, before and after school, class breaks and lunch breaks.

Storage of PMDs

At Fort Saskatchewan Christian School, all devices brought to school are to be stored in lockers and either powered off or in silent mode. In addition, lockers should be locked.

PMDs shall not be on the student during class time unless documentation has been provided to the principal or designate that confirms the use is for a diagnosed health or medical condition, or an identified special learning need.

PMDs may be retrieved from the storage location if teachers are having Junior High students utilize them for a specific educational purpose as outlined above.

We recommend students leave PMDs at home. Students who choose to bring PMDs to school do so at their own risk. The security and storage of these devices is the sole responsibility of the owner or user and Fort Saskatchewan Christian School and Elk Island Public Schools assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of the PMD.

General Information

Students shall not take PMDs into test or examinations settings. PMDs also shall not be used in change rooms, washrooms, private counselling rooms or any setting that has the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Progressive Discipline

At Fort Saskatchewan Christian School, students will be held accountable for their behaviour and conduct as outlined in [AP 350: Student Code of Conduct](#). If a student uses their personal mobile device when not permitted to do so, schools will follow progressive disciplinary practices and parents/guardians will be notified as outlined below.

	Disciplinary practice
First Infraction	<i>The device will be taken away, stored in a secure location in the office, and the student can pick it up at the end of the day.</i>
Second Infraction	<i>The device will be taken away, stored in a secure location in the office, and the student's parent must come to pick it up at the end of the day.</i>
Third or more Infraction	<i>The principal, in collaboration with parents and teachers, will determine the appropriate next steps to ensure the optimization of students' mental health, engagement, and learning.</i>

The principal or teacher will consider individual circumstances and may move further down the progressive disciplinary practice as required. This approach is designed to teach responsibility and ensure that devices are not a distraction to learning.

Parent/Caregiver Communication with Students

Parents are asked to refrain from contacting their child/student on their PMD during the school day. Parents can contact the school office at (780) 998-7044 who can facilitate contact with their child/student during the school day, if needed.