



30 January 2024

Dear parents and caregivers,

In response to legislation that is being developed regarding student mobile usage in schools, Rangitoto College has made an adjustment to our current mobile phone expectations. We will begin the year by introducing the below expectations for all students. Given the expectations will be very different than in previous years we would ask parents/caregivers to speak with their child about these expectations to support a positive start.

**The Ministry of Education has communicated the following with schools:**

*The government expects that schools should have policies/procedures covering mobile phones 'away for the day' in place as soon as possible in Term 1 2024. The Ministry of Education references: 'Both international and local evidence shows that cell phones can be a distraction from learning during class time, as well as reducing important face-to-face interaction during school breaks. A UNESCO report published in July describes the move towards cell phones being away for the school day as supporting addressing issues of classroom disruption, improving learning, and helping protect children from cyberbullying'.*

**Rangitoto College Student Mobile Phone and Device Expectation:**

Mobile phones are to be turned off and placed in bags before entry into school gates. Phones will not be used by students on site between 8:00am and 3:20pm (exit bell for the day signals the use of mobile phones for students). Mobile phones to always remain off and out of sight. If phones are brought to school, they must be kept in a student's own school bag.

Other student devices/laptops are not permitted to be used at break times unless in the Rangitoto Centre for Year 13 or the library for other year levels, for the purposes of curriculum.

At Rangitoto College, we have supported the classroom environment in recent years with students relinquishing their mobile phones on entry into classrooms. This has removed the temptation to use phones during lessons and the subsequent impact on the learning environment. The above expectations further support the importance of face-to-face interactions in the academic and social development of young people.

We will be working on a soft launch with students to support the conditioning of students having mobile phones 'away for the day'. Over the course of Term 1, we will refine expectations to ensure that students meet these requirements. The expectations will be explained initially to students as they begin school this week.