

Removing cell phones from New Zealand classrooms:

Four good practices

ERO looked at practices that support effective implementation of cell phone policies. This framework tool sets out four practices that make a big difference.

The keys to effective cell phone policy implementation are...

1 Have consistent rules with firm consequences

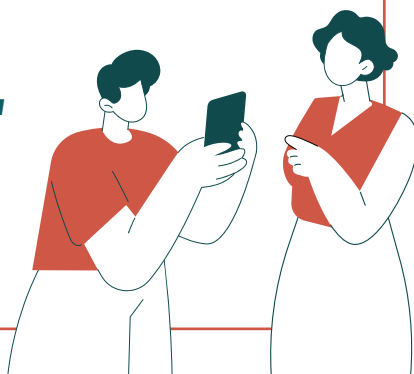
This means...

1) Keeping rules consistent across all times and places

- Keep your cell phone rules clear and straightforward, with minimal variation.
- Keep rules in place for all times of the day and all locations.

2) Confiscating phones and notifying parents and whānau

- Confiscate phones immediately without warnings.
- Notify parents and whānau when the rules are broken.



2 Make sure teachers understand, buy in, and enforce the rules

This means...

1) Communicating the purpose and benefit of the rules to teachers

- Share evidence and data with staff about how these rules lead to positive outcomes.

2) Monitoring and enforcing consistency of how the rule is applied

- Develop tools to support staff to implement your policy consistently, such as micro-scripts or class contracts.
- Investigate how your policy is working by looking at confiscation data, and student and staff surveys.



3 Get students on board

This means...

1) Helping students to understand how the rules benefit them

- Share evidence and data with students about how the rules lead to better learning.

2) Finding practical ways to make following the rules easy

- Develop easy ways for students to put their phones away.
- Develop alternative social activities for break times.



4 Get parents and whānau on board

This means...

1) Communicating the purpose and benefits of the rules to parents and whānau

- Share evidence and data with parents and whānau about how these rules lead to positive outcomes.

2) Providing alternative ways for parents and whānau to communicate with their children

- Develop a reliable system of communication for parents and whānau to get messages to their child.
- Ensure parents and whānau understand and are familiar with the system.



Scan me!



More info:

Want more detail, including evidence-based strategies and stories? Check out our full good practice guide here at evidence.ero.govt.nz