

Cell Phone Policy (2026)

Our Stance

At BenHale Academy, **cell phones are not part of the school day**. While we understand many learners' own smartphones, they are a major distraction and can cause disruption to teaching, learning, and discipline.

Key Rules (Easy to Remember)

1. No Phone Use During School Hours

- School time is **07h45 – 14h30**.
- Phones may not be used in class, at recess, or anywhere on campus.

2. "Out of Sight" Rule

- Learners may carry a phone, but it must be **switched off and kept out of sight** (e.g., in a bag).
- A phone must **never be visible** during the school day.

3. Confiscation & Consequences

- If a learner is caught using a phone, it will be **confiscated immediately**.
- The phone will only be returned at the end of the week it was confiscated.

4. Parent Communication

- Parents who need to contact their child during school hours must **call the Administration Office**.
- Staff will either:
 - Bring the learner to the office to take the call, OR
 - Deliver the parent's message to the learner promptly.



5. Tablets & Laptops

- May be used **only with the teacher's permission** for school-related tasks (e.g., Google Classroom).
- If misused (e.g., social media, messaging apps), the device will be **confiscated for the day**.

Why This Matters

- Protects learners from distraction.
- Reduces risks of **cyberbullying** (a criminal offence under South African law).
- Helps learners focus on **learning, not devices**.
- Teaches **responsible and disciplined use** of technology.

Additional Recommendations

- **Clear storage requirement:** Learners must keep phones in their school bag during the day (not pockets).
- **After-school rule:** Phones may only be used once the learner has left the campus.
- **Repeated offences:** Consider stricter penalties after a second offence (e.g., parent must collect the phone, or longer confiscation period).
- **Cyber safety clause:** Reiterate that any form of cyberbullying, sexting, or inappropriate digital conduct linked to school will face **serious disciplinary and even civil action in extreme cases**.
- **Parent partnership:** Please support this policy by not messaging your child/ren during school hours.

Parent/s Name/s: _____

Parent/s Signature/s: _____

