

Protocols for Use of Cellphones in Class

Background

- Lincoln High School has adopted BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for all students.
- The primary BYOD device for students is ideally a Windows laptop.
- A cellphone is not an acceptable option as a primary BYOD device for learning.
- The use of cellphones in class is a distraction and can lead to learning being disrupted.
- International research shows that when schools limit the use of cellphones there is an increase in student achievement.
- Cellphones may sometimes be useful for student learning.
- Consistent expectations will make things clear for all staff and students.

Guidelines

Cellphones are not to be used in class unless specific permission is given by the teacher.

- Cellphones should be *Off* or in *Do Not Disturb* mode during class time.
- It is *not* acceptable to have a cellphone in class that is in *Silent* mode but that still buzzes/vibrates.
- Cellphones should be in a pocket or bag, not on a desk.
- Teachers *may* give permission for students to use cellphones in specific circumstances – for example to take a photo, to video a classmate practising a speech, to record a performance.
- If a cellphone interrupts learning in class, the student will have one personal reminder to put it right. A second interruption constitutes a serious disruption of learning and is likely to result in the student being transferred from class.
- Parents are asked to phone the office if they need to get an urgent message to a student during class time.

Note: This also includes the use of other personal devices such as iPods, and smartwatches (these can be worn on the wrist).