

## **A.L. Horton Elementary: Personal Electronic 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 aged students (kindergarten to grade 6) **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.

### **Storage of PMDs**

At A.L. Horton Elementary, all devices brought to school are to be stored in student backpacks which hang in either their classrooms or hallway lockers. Devices must be put either powered off or in silent mode.



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 A.L. Horton Elementary and Elk Island Public Schools assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of the PMD.

### **Progressive Discipline**

At A.L. Horton Elementary 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 disciplinary practices and parents/guardians will be notified as outline below.

First Infraction	Verbal warning. The student must put the device away in their locker.
Second Infraction	Referral to Administration. Administration will confiscate the phone for the remainder of the school day. The phone will be returned at the end of the school day.
Third and Fourth Infraction	Referral to Administration. Administration will confiscate the phone for the remainder of the school day. A phone call will be made to parents to pick up the phone from the school office.
Fifth Infraction and Beyond	Referral to Administration. Further infractions will be dealt with on an individual basis as students will also be in breach of the Elk Island Public School Student Code of Conduct.

