

Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media

BACKGROUND

Fusion Collegiate recognizes that students are entitled to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self. Fusion Collegiate wishes to improve learning outcomes by supporting a distraction-free learning environment that promotes students' well-being and limits opportunities for bullying:

- Fusion Collegiate recognizes that the use of personal mobile devices in schools can be a source of distraction that can negatively impact students' mental health, engagement, and learning.
- Fusion Collegiate also recognizes that the use of personal mobile devices can be used to harm, bully, and otherwise compromise a distraction-free learning environment.

To promote a positive learning experience and learning environment at school, and in accordance with the Government of Alberta Ministerial Order (#014/2024), Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools, Fusion Collegiate limits the use of personal mobile devices and limits access to social media during the instructional day at school.

DEFINITIONS

- **Personal Mobile Device** - Personal mobile device means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet. This includes cellphones, tablets, gaming devices, laptops, smartwatches, and devices that can connect to or communicate with mobile devices, such as headphones and Bluetooth devices (e.g., earbuds and speakers).
- **Social Media** - Social media means platforms and applications that enable users to participate, communicate, create, and share content through interactive or social dialogue. Social media includes apps, blogs, wikis, internet forums, instant messaging, and social network aggregation platforms. Examples include, but are not limited to, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, X, TikTok, Discord, Facebook, and similar platforms.
- **Staff** - Staff means any teacher, support staff, administrator, or substitute teacher at Fusion Collegiate.
- **Instructional Time** - Instructional time means periods scheduled for instruction, examinations/testing, or other student activities where direct student-teacher interaction and supervision are maintained (Alberta Education, 2023). Examples include, but are not limited to, in-class instruction, activities, assemblies, guest speaker events, and field trips.
- **Educational Use** – Educational use means educational tasks and activities planned by staff to enhance learning outcomes and/or support health, medical or special learning needs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students are responsible for
 - a. Reviewing and signing with their parents (if not an Independent student) the acceptable use of technology policy
 - b. Ensuring their personal mobile device is turned off or silenced during instructional times
 - c. Ensuring their personal mobile device is kept out of sight in a secure location such as a locker or nearby backpack.
 - d. Handing over their personal mobile device to a staff member as a consequence

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- for non-compliance
2. Staff are responsible for
 - a. Communicating, reviewing and upholding the school's policies supporting student use of personal mobile devices and social media in accordance with the Government of Alberta Ministerial Order (#014/2024)
 - b. Ensuring student devices that are handed over are labelled and secured.
 3. Administration is responsible for
 - a. Developing, communicating and reviewing the school's policies supporting the school's use of personal mobile devices and social media expectations and procedures with staff.
 - b. Administering the progressive discipline procedures in a fair and consistent manner.
 - c. Uploading the signed "Student Acceptable Use" policies in the Fusion Education Association secure drive.
 - d. Working with IT services to ensure social media platforms and sites are blocked from student use on site.
 4. Parents are responsible for
 - a. Reviewing, supporting and signing the "Student Acceptable Use" policies with their student (if not an Independent student).

PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed to meet the requirements for Ministerial Order (#014/2024).

1. Fusion Collegiate students may not use their personal mobile devices during instructional time unless authorized by staff for educational use (health, medical or special learning needs).
2. Students who require the use of a personal mobile device for specific medical or health reasons should contact the school administration, or have their parents/guardians do so, to discuss accommodations and collaborate on a plan to support their learning needs.
3. Students are not permitted to access social media on school networks or devices.
4. Students must turn off or silence their cell phones and any other personal mobile devices during instructional times.
5. Personal mobile devices must be kept out of sight in a secure location such as a locker or nearby backpack.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with the above policy will result in the following progressive actions:

1. First Infraction: The student will be reminded to turn off their device and store it out of sight.
2. Second Infraction: The student will hand their device to the teacher, and it will be stored until the end of the class.
3. Third Infraction: The student will hand their device to the teacher, and the parents/guardians will be contacted. If the student is independent, they will meet with an administrator to review the policy and expectations, and to develop a plan for future compliance.

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4. Fourth Infraction: The student will be required to hand their device to an administrator at the start of the day, and it will be returned at the end of the day.
5. Fifth Infraction: The student will no longer be permitted to have personal mobile devices on school property.

Disclaimer: Fusion Collegiate is not responsible for the safety or replacement costs of devices in the event of loss, damage, or theft.

LEGAL REFERENCE: *Government of Alberta Ministerial Order (#014/2024)*