

# **Churchill Public School**

## **Policy re: Electronic Devices**

### **Philosophy:**

Churchill Public School staff and parents believe in a learning environment that allows all students to achieve their full potential. This environment needs to be safe and free of distractions that negatively impact student learning or lessen instructional time. Like many other schools in the Rainbow District School Board, Churchill Public School is seeing an influx of student use of electronic devices such as portable DVD players, mp3 players, electronic games, cell phones and cameras.

It is our belief that the use of these devices during the instructional day severely limits the listener's ability to concentrate on the learning in the classroom and is a distraction to other learners around him/her.

It is also our belief that the presence of these devices during the instructional day poses several safety concerns. Students listening to these devices during the instructional day are at risk of not hearing important instructions from staff members, safety announcements or alarms. Student safety is therefore compromised.

Although we recognize the cost of these devices to parents, as well as how upsetting it is to a student to have such devices go missing, we believe that resolving these concerns during class time is neither a good use of instructional time or human resources.

Lastly, it is our belief that cameras and cell phones with cameras pose privacy and confidentiality concerns to all staff and students at Churchill Public School.

These concerns are being recognized in all areas of society and limits on the use of such devices can now be found everywhere.

As such, the Churchill Public School Council, in conjunction with a staff committee, has formulated the following policy in regards to electronic devices.

### **Electronic Devices Policy**

1. Unless otherwise stated in a student's Individual Education Plan, electronic devices such as mp3 players, portable DVD players and electronic games must be kept securely locked in lockers for the duration of the school day.
2. Students in possession of these devices during the school day will be asked to take them immediately to their locker where they are to be securely locked.
3. Cameras are not permitted at school unless under the direct supervision of a staff member, for educational purposes. The taking of student or staff photos, without expressed written consent, is forbidden.
4. Under no circumstances are cameras or cell phones permitted in washrooms or change rooms. Students disregarding this will have their device(s) confiscated immediately and their parent(s) will be contacted to retrieve the item(s) in question.
5. Cell phones must be securely locked in lockers for the duration of the school's instructional day unless under the direct supervision of a staff member.
6. Students who bring electronic devices to school accept all responsibility for their safekeeping. Staff members are not responsible for finding these items should they go missing.
7. It is a parent's responsibility to monitor what music or entertainment their children listen to or view on these devices but if a staff member has a concern

about the nature of the music or entertainment, they have the authority to confiscate the electronic device. Staff members are also authorized to confiscate electronic devices from students who repeatedly disregard this policy.

8. The confiscated item(s) will be stored on the staff member's person until such a time as he/she determines it will be returned to the student. Such confiscation should normally be for the remainder of the day, but confiscation until a parent is able to pick up the device is also authorized.