



ROOSEVELT ACADEMY
Committed to Excellence in Education

Roosevelt Academy Cellphone & Social Media Policy

Effective Date: 01/09/2024

Applies To: All Learners at Roosevelt Academy (Primary & Secondary)

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Roosevelt Academy's expectations regarding the use of **cellphones, personal devices, and social media** by learners. It is designed to ensure:

- **A focused learning environment**
- **Protection of learners and staff** from harm, harassment, and misconduct
- **Preservation of the Academy's reputation**
- Compliance with **South African legal frameworks** on cybercrime, children's rights, and harassment

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- **All Roosevelt Academy learners**
- Use of **cellphones, personal devices, and social media platforms**
- Conduct both **on and off** school premises, where behaviour may affect the school's community or reputation

3. General Cellphone Policy

3.1 Prohibition

- Learners are **strictly prohibited** from bringing or using cellphones and smart devices on school premises or at school events, **unless explicitly authorized by School Management** for academic purposes.

3.2 Educational Exceptions

- Cellphones or tablets may be used **only when instructed in writing** by School Management or a teacher for academic or assessment-related purposes.

3.3 Random Searches

- The school reserves the right to conduct **random searches**. Confiscated devices will be **retained by the school** and only released upon payment of a **hefty penalty fee**, determined by the School Management.

4. Penalties for Cellphone Violations

4.1 First Offense

- Immediate **confiscation**
- **Penalty fee applies**
- Written warning issued to the learner and parent/guardian

4.2 Repeat Offenses

- **Increased penalty fee**
- **Suspension from school activities**
- **Disciplinary hearing**, which may result in suspension or expulsion

5. Social Media Conduct

5.1 Respectful Engagement

- Learners must **not post, share, comment**, or like content that is harmful, discriminatory, or abusive toward others, including peers and staff.

5.2 Prohibited Content

- Hate speech, explicit material, fake accounts, cyberbullying, and incitement to violence are **strictly prohibited**.

5.3 Recording & Sharing

- The **unauthorized recording, photographing, or videoing** of any individual on school grounds or during school events is **not allowed**. Disciplinary action will follow.

6. Monitoring & Investigations

- The Academy may **monitor device usage and social media behaviour**, especially when incidents affect the school community.
- Learners found in breach of this policy may be subject to an **internal investigation**, and their **parents/guardians will be involved**.

7. Disciplinary Action for Violations

Consequences may include:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from bringing devices to school
- Suspension from school
- **Expulsion in severe or repeat cases**
- Referral to **law enforcement or legal authorities** where necessary

8. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents must **educate learners about responsible use** of digital platforms and **enforce policy compliance at home**.
- A signed **acknowledgment form** is required for each enrolled learner.

9. Legal Framework

This policy is aligned with:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act 17 of 2011)
- Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005)
- Cybercrimes Act, 2020 (Act 19 of 2020)

10. Acknowledgment

All learners and parents/guardians on Enrolment agreement with Roosevelt Academy **acknowledge** to understand and agree to abide by this policy. Violations will not be excused on the grounds of ignorance.

Signed by:

Sandile Mtshiliba

Marketing Manager

Roosevelt Academy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Mtshiliba', written on a light gray grid background.