École Whitehorse Elementary School

Personal Electronic Device Policy

École Whitehorse Elementary School encourages healthy social interaction, active play and attentiveness as key components for learning and development. The use of personally owned electronic devices has been shown to be distracting and impairs a child’s ability to learn and work effectively (Barile 2021).

***SUMMARY***

EWES *does not* permit the use of personally owned electronic devices during school hours or at school events. Instead, students will continue to have use of electronic devices provided by the school as part of their supervised classroom activities. This will encourage students to learn how to appropriately and safely use devices as part of their learning experience.

**Definitions**

**“Electronic Device”:**means a device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument including, but not limited to:

            a smart phone; a smart watch;a tablet; or a virtual reality device.

**Policy Application Period**

Personally owned electronic devices may not be used during school hours, including:

• After getting off the bus in the morning;

• Before getting on the bus at the end of the school day;

• Morning recess;

• Noon recess;

• Lunch time; and/or

• Class time.

The front office will continue to provide messages to students or directly connect parents and guardians to a student’s classroom, as requested. Students may contact parents using the classroom telephone if necessary.

**Misuse of Personally Owned Electronic Devices**

If students are found with an electronic device without explicit permission, it will be confiscated by a staff member.

• First misuse: the item will be taken to the office and may be collected by the student at the end of the day.

• Subsequent misuse: the item will be taken to the office and must be collected by a parent or guardian.

We believe staff and parents/guardians play an important role in modelling the responsible use of personally owned electronic devices while participating in school events. As such staff, parents, guardians and visitors are encouraged to limit the use of personally owned electronic devices while on the EWES school grounds.

 Approved by École Whitehorse Elementary School Council on April 27, 2021