POLICY:	Personal Mobile Devices in Schools			#	723
SECTION:	700 : School Administration			Page 1	of 2
APPROVAL/REVISION DATE:	October 7, 2024	EFFECTIVE DATE:	October 8, 2024	DATE:	October 2029
CROSS REFERENCE:	Policy 703: School Code of Conduct PM 128 The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct 2019				

A: POLICY

1. It is the policy of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board that Board employees, volunteers, and visitors are not permitted to use personal mobile devices (PMDs) for personal or professional use on school property during assigned classes or work assignments, instructional or supervision time without the expressed consent of the Principal (or designate).

   In the spirit of creating a positive Catholic climate for all our school communities, and with the aim of improving student achievement, increasing school safety, and protecting individual privacy, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board asserts that school Principals, will administer this policy, in fulfillment of their legislative responsibilities under the Education Act and the Provincial Code of Conduct.

B: RATIONALE

2. Existing and emerging mobile and smart technologies present challenges for Catholic educators working to provide all members of our school communities with a safe, Christ-centred learning and working environment consistent with our Mission Statement.

   The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board acknowledges that:

   • The dignity of the human person, as promoted by the Catholic Church, may be compromised by the potential for invasion of personal privacy made possible by the inappropriate use of PMDs on school property;

   • Unregulated use of PMDs may pose a risk to the individual safety of students, staff, and visitors in our schools and in some cases, may facilitate illegal activities in the school environment or during school- sanctioned activities;

   • The promotion of academic excellence and the preservation of academic integrity may be compromised by the unregulated use of PMDs during the instructional day, at assessment and evaluation times, and on formal examination days.

C: DEFINITION

3. A Personal Mobile Device (PMD) refers to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a cell phone or tablet.

POLICY:	Personal Mobile Devices in Schools	#	723
SECTION:	700 : School Administration	Page 1	of 2
APPROVAL/REVISION DATE:	October 7, 2024	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 8, 2024	DATE: October 2029
CROSS REFERENCE:	Policy 703: School Code of Conduct PM 128 The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct 2019		

D: REQUIREMENTS

4. 4.1 The school Principal, in conjunction with the support of his/her school staff, is responsible to ensure the implementation and management of this policy at the school level.

4.2 The Board regulates the use of Personal Mobile Devices on school property by prohibiting the following uses:

1. The use of PMDs by teaching staff during assigned classes, instructional or supervision time without the expressed consent of the principal (or designate). Use during lunch and preparation time is allowed.

2. The use of PMDs by non-teaching staff during working hours. Use during lunch and work breaks is allowed.

3. The use of PMDs that compromises the academic integrity of the school or individuals within the school.

4. The use of PMDs that interferes or disrupts the academic day or the teaching-learning environment.

5. The use of PMDs that violates a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

6. The use of PMDs that compromises personal and/or school safety.

7. The use of PMDs that facilitates the commission of a crime (using PMDs to break federal, provincial, or municipal laws).

8. Any other use of PMDs which a school Principal deems to compromise or interfere with school security, personal safety, individual privacy or academic integrity.

9. Social media platforms may not be accessed on school networks or on school devices, unless they are being used for educational purposes directed by an educator.

10. The use of PMDs by students is addressed in Policy 703 – School Code of Conduct.

4.3 In addition to the uses permitted under 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, the Principal (or designate), may authorize other specific uses of PMDs on school property.

4.4 The school Principal (or designate) is responsible to ensure that any signage related to this Policy is posted (as provided by Board.