

# **WISDOM BUILDERS ELECTRONICS POLICY**

## **ADAPTED JULY 2024**

### **REASONS FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICE GUIDELINES**

- Cyber-bullying (includes sharing private or personal information about someone else causing embarrassment or hurt) – At least 1/3 of middle and high school students have been victims of cyber-bullying.
- Mental Health Concerns – Research shows that teens who spend three or more hours on their phones are 71% more likely to have one suicide risk factor, regardless of what they do on their phones.
- Research shows that having a cell phone in your hand or pocket maintains a “high alert” state in the brain, raising cortisol levels and contributing to stress, anxiety, and lack of focus.
- Exposure to Pornography - 73% of teens have been exposed to online pornography by the time they are 17. 58% were not actively seeking seeking pornographic content but were exposed through pop-ups and and “click-bait” generated by the algorithm.
- Individual Safety– Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, BE Real, etc., encourage users to take photos throughout the day. Photos taken at school can reveal information about the school environment that can pose a safety risk, such as location, patterns of behavior, student gathering areas, entrances/exits, etc. It can expose the identity and location of children in foster care or adoptive homes who might be at risk. It can expose the location of students matching targeted criteria for human trafficking. It creates opportunities for individuals meaning harm to manipulate photos, video, and voice recordings for evil.
- Smartphones have become an integral part of our daily lives, greatly impacting how we communicate and interact with others. On one hand, they have made communication more convenient and accessible, allowing us to stay connected with friends and family regardless of the distance. However, on the other hand, they have been linked to a decrease in face-to-face communication and a decline in the quality of our relationships. Moreover, the use of smartphones has been linked to a decrease in nonverbal cues and body language, as we rely more on text messaging and social media to communicate. This can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations, as well as a lack of emotional expression and connection in our relationships.
- We are committed to the safety of our students and believe in equipping them to develop healthy, Christ-like habits while in our care.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE GUIDELINES:**

- Children and teens are at Wisdom Builders to listen and learn. Please leave all temptations and electronic devices at home or in the car. Furthermore, they are rarely needed during a lesson.
- Students should not bring cell phones, MP3 players/iPods, earbuds/AirPods, headphones, CD players, hand-held games, etc. to Wisdom Builders.
- If a child brings their device to Wisdom Builders, it should be turned off and placed inside of their backpack or purse while they are here.
- Grace Church does not want the teens on the internet while they are here unless under the instruction of a teacher.
- Students should not be using their cell phones to text or make phone calls unless given permission by an adult teacher, aide, or administrator.
- Students should not check social media, watch movies, take photos (selfies), or listen to music while at Wisdom Builders.

- The same guidelines apply to children sitting with their parents at Grace Church and children of volunteers, aides, and tutors on the church premises (this does not apply to official use by Wisdom Builders tutors & staff).

**CONSEQUENCES OF BREAKING ELECTRONIC DEVICE RULES:**

- If a phone, headphones, or other device is out of a student's backpack without permission on Wisdom Builders days and functions, the items will be confiscated and given to a staff member.
- The parent will be called to let them know the child has broken the cell phone usage policy.
- The student will not be allowed to have a phone on campus. If they bring a phone, they must place it in the administrative cell phone parking lot upon arrival at Wisdom Builders and may pick it up at the end of the day (or when leaving the building).
- Abuse of the cell phone policy is grounds for dismissal from Wisdom Builders.

**EXCEPTIONS TO ELECTRONIC DEVICE RULES:**

- Courses that require a computer.
- With prior approval, teens may use laptops to study.
- With prior approval, students with special needs may use laptops, cell phones, etc.
- ELECTRONIC DEVICES CAN ONLY BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, WITH APPROVAL, AND UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.

**I have read and understand the Wisdom Builders Electronic Device Rules adaptation and consequences and agree to follow the guidelines.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name of Teen**

**I have read and understand the Wisdom Builders Electronics Device Rules adaptation and consequences and agree to support the guidelines.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name of Parent**