



## DEVICE POLICY 5787

While smartphones and personal electronic devices have many positive and constructive uses, it is widely recognised that they also pose serious challenges, such as distraction from meaningful, productive activities, and discreet access to inappropriate content. This is why Ohel Chana has high standards and clear expectations for when and how they may be used.

### **FILTERING**

We filter all our students smart devices to remove distractions and allow for a beautiful, wholesome, spiritual and social environment - one in which they could grow and thrive in their yiddishkeit and chassidishkeit.

The kPhone filter is the filter of choice for Ohel Chana students, and therefor students must have iPhones for the duration of the seminary year. Please note that Apple Watches are not compatible with the kPhone filter and therefor won't function at full capacity for the duration of the seminary year.

### ***The main features of kPhone:***

- Only Hanhala approved apps can be installed (generally Torah, communication, or productivity apps such as banking, shopping, transportation, navigation or food delivery etc.).
- Apps with a significant social media function are generally not approved.
- Secular movies, books, and music are not to be consumed throughout the seminary year, and therefor streaming apps and websites will not be approved.
- We recognize the important role music plays in our students' lives and understand that exclusively Jewish music apps often come at an additional cost. Therefore, we will allow access to general music streaming apps, on the condition that students use them solely to listen to Jewish music. We are placing our trust in our students to uphold this standard. However, if this trust is compromised, we will be left with no choice but to revoke access to general music apps and permit only approved, exclusively Jewish music platforms (such as 24Six).
- Social games and highly addictive games are not approved.
- Students may request specific apps to be allowed, and upon approval these apps will become available to them.

- Technical support is handled 24/6 by kPhone.

For more general information about kPhone, please visit: <https://www.kphone.org/>

The phone filter remains installed throughout the entirety of the seminary year.

### **WHEN AND WHERE DEVICES MAY BE USED**

Phones may not be used during class time, guest speakers, Tefillah, or the first 45 minutes of official Farbrengens. Likewise, earbuds and similar audio accessories are not permitted during these times.

During class and when guest speakers are presenting in the Learning Centre, all phones must be TURNED OFF and stored in the designated phone cupboard. Each student will have an assigned space for her device. Failure to place a phone in the cupboard will result in the student being marked absent.

During Farbrengens or speaking events held in the dormitory or other locations, phones must be placed out of sight and not accessed for the duration of the event.

### **OTHER DEVICES**

The dorm includes a well-equipped computer room where computers have limited internet access for email exchange and school/hafotzoh work. Students are not permitted to bring laptop computers, ipads or tablets etc. to Ohel Chana. If, for some pressing reason, a student must bring a laptop or tablet, the device must be filtered (at the student's expense) and be kept in the office when not in use.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

Social media can create a false sense of anonymity and lower inhibitions, making it easier for people to post things they would never say or do face-to-face. Many users think their posts won't be noticed beyond their intended audience, but they often are. Once something is online, it can remain permanently and damage reputations – whether for the person who posted, the person it's about, or both. Even if the original post is deleted, others can screenshot or save it, allowing it to keep circulating and causing harm long after. Mistakes or embarrassing posts can linger for years, affecting relationships and future opportunities. You can never know in advance which post might cause serious problems.

Beyond this, social media exposes users to many other dangers, whether as perpetrators or victims. These include peer pressure, cyberbullying, wasting time that should be spent productively (like

learning or sleeping at appropriate times), addictive use, privacy risks, exposure to inappropriate content, online predators, scams, and false information. Social media can negatively impact mental health (including anxiety and depression), lower self-esteem, create feelings of inadequacy due to constant comparison with others, and weaken real-life social skills. Although some of these may sound extreme, experience has shown that seminary students are by no means immune to these risks.

***Because of these dangers, posting to social media is strictly forbidden for students.*** Although WhatsApp is permitted for communication with family and friends, it is prohibited to participate in groups that are not appropriate for an Ohel Chana student. Similarly, it is forbidden for any student to serve as an admin of any WhatsApp channel, or to access content on any WhatsApp channel. If a student is found to be using WhatsApp inappropriately, her access will be limited to a *Media-Restricted WhatsApp* account. This iPhone option blocks all WhatsApp media – images, videos, voice notes, and files. With this option, your WhatsApp will essentially function just for text messaging.

Anyone with a genuine need to post on social media must first seek Reshus from the Hanhala to confirm whether it is allowed for her, and under what conditions.

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Thank you for your cooperation in helping make your seminary year—and that of your peers—as productive, uplifting, and spiritually focused as possible. These standards are in place to foster a positive and healthy environment, enabling each student to grow without distraction or disruption.