



MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

Rationale and purpose

“See it; Hear it; Use it: Lose it”

The school recognises that there may be genuine reasons for some students to have a mobile device at school. **However, we do not allow the use of mobile devices in school.** Any student who brings a mobile device into school does so at their own risk. School, for the purposes of this policy, denotes **all buildings and areas within the school perimeter, including all its grounds.**

Mobile devices and social media provide a particular **source of disruption** in schools. Mobile devices are often **linked to behaviour incidents**, from students being sanctioned for using their device during class to their link to bullying and upsetting incidents over social media. devices going off during lessons cause an **immediate distraction** that may last some time and have a considerable impact on the teaching, the lesson and the learning of students.

Further, the use of handsets to **play games** is distracting, even addictive, and to the **detriment of students’ personal and social development in interacting with others and ‘living in the moment’**. The use of a device’s **camera and video functions can be used inappropriately to cause upset to students and present safeguarding concerns.**

Often, devices are used to access **social media**. This means that problems and disputes between students can carry on beyond the school day and, likewise, incidents that have occurred outside of school are often continued inside school. Although the negative impacts of social media exchanges - such as bullying or creating a forum for arguments - happen largely outside school, this has an impact on relationships and behaviour inside school.

All of these incidents require investigation and are a time consuming drain on a school’s human resources. **In summary, we believe the distractions significantly outweigh the possible benefits of mobile devices in school.**

Principles underpinning the policy

As a working community, we do need to have regulations governing the use of mobile devices or tablets in order that lessons are not interrupted and students do not use these devices unnecessarily.

Parents and carers must be aware of and agree to the following points:

- **The school does not accept any responsibility for mobile devices or tablets and they are not a necessity in school.** Students must take full responsibility for their safe-keeping, and they bring them into school at their own personal risk. If devices go missing, we cannot be expected to take time to search for them. It is advisable to **protect mobile devices and tablets with security markings and PIN codes.** There is the option of keeping them locked in a locker during the school day if the student has one.
- **Mobile devices and tablets must be switched off within the school premises.** This includes all playground areas and school grounds. If they ring, or are visible during the day, members of staff are instructed to confiscate them without exception or warning.
- **Smart Watches** are not allowed in school. Students are advised to use a normal watch. If a Smart Watch is worn, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- **Eardevices/buds are not allowed in school.** If they are seen, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
- **Students may not use mobile devices at any time during the school day to make or receive calls or texts.** Students who have a real emergency can use the school phone at the office to contact parents and carers.
- If parents and carers need to contact students in an emergency, they should **telephone the school in the usual way and emergency messages will be passed on by an appropriate adult.**
- **Please do not call or text your child's mobile device during the school day, as this could result in a confiscation of their device.** Similarly, please do not encourage your child to use their device in school.
- Mobile devices and tablets must never be taken into examinations and for this reason the **school does not allow them to be taken into any examination room.**
- The **use of the camera function is strictly prohibited in school.** It constitutes a breach of privacy and can be used for intimidation and bullying. The potential for the images of children to be used for inappropriate purposes is our primary concern. The use of images without permission of the person photographed is a breach of their right to privacy.
- **Please note mobile devices must never be used during break, lunch, after school activities or detentions.**
- **It is forbidden to use a mobile device in the toilet or changing rooms in order to protect and safeguard our students. The misuse of mobile devices in these circumstances could lead to a criminal investigation.**

Finally, we wish to point out that all staff deserve to be able to carry out their professional duties, and implement our policies, without the interference of parents and carers. **Once a decision has been made to confiscate a mobile device, no negotiation will be entered into.**

The policy is clear, transparent and will be widely communicated to all stakeholders so that everyone understands the expectations in ensuring its consistent application. We also acknowledge that a very small number of students use a device for medical reasons and these students will be provided with exemptions to this policy for this purpose.

Parents and carers should note that failure to comply with this policy could result in their child being issued with a period in Inclusion, Isolation or a fixed term suspension.

Consequences for students

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What happens if a device is seen or heard on school premises?

If devices are seen or heard during the course of the school day, they will be **confiscated immediately** by the member of staff, collected and stored securely. A text message will be sent home to inform the parent/carer of the device confiscation.

What sanction will be served by students as a consequence for having a device confiscated?

A **C2 detention will be issued for breach of the device policy**. This will be served the same day, in line with the school policy on detentions. At the **end of the same day C2 detention, the device will be returned to the student**. If the student **fails to attend the C2 detention, their device will be stored in the safe and they will spend the next day in isolation in line with detention policy**. The device will be returned to the student at the end of their day in Isolation; that is 3.45pm each day except Wednesday, which is 4.45pm.

What if the device is confiscated after 2pm, the usual cut off time for same day detentions?

If the student needs their device back the same day, for safeguarding, **they must serve the detention the same day even if the device is confiscated after 2pm**. If they choose not to stay, their phone will be stored safely overnight and returned after they serve the detention the following day. Parents/carers will be aware of the detention because they will receive the text to inform them that the device has been confiscated in line with policy.

What if a student persistently breaches the policy on devices?

In the event that a student persistently causes issues with their mobile device, **we will involve parents and carers and sanctions may escalate**.

What if a student refuses to hand over a device?

Refusal to hand over a mobile device or earphones to a member of staff will result in Isolation or a suspension. Parents and carers will be requested to attend a meeting to discuss this serious breach of our behaviour for learning policy.

How will students be reminded of the policy?

The phrase, **“See it; Hear it; Use it: Lose it”**, is a succinct summary of the whole school's consistent approach, and will be visible around the school site as a simple way of reminding students of our expectations.



OFF AND AWAY ALL DAY

Leave your mobile phone at home, or turn it off and put it away in your bag or locker during the school day.



 If you need to check what lesson you have, look at the printed timetables outside the Hub.

 If you need to check if you have a detention, go to the canteen at the end of the day and ask.

 If you need to speak to your family urgently, please go to the office at break or lunchtime.

 All iPods, smart watches, headphones and accessories stay at home all day.

 Having your mobile in your pocket or in your clothing is not okay.

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