



Mobile Phone Policy

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1. Statement of Intent

- 1.1. At Furze Platt Senior School we believe that all students and members of staff have an absolute right to feel safe, valued and respected. We believe that all members of our school community should uphold the traditional values of nurture challenge and inspire.
- 1.2. We believe that teaching staff should aim to deliver teaching and learning that is exceptional every day and the focus on students' learning should not be disrupted.
- 1.3. Any policy regarding mobile phones should seek to support our existing Acceptable Use of ICT and Behaviour for Learning policies.
- 1.4. Whilst we acknowledge that mobile phones can be of use at school, it should be recognised that increasing mobile phone use has the potential to undermine the above over-arching principles.
- 1.5. There have been instances of poorly judged use of mobile phones at school by some students, which have disrupted learning and caused distress. This is unacceptable.
- 1.6. Research demonstrates that students perform better academically at institutions where mobile phone use is restricted.
- 1.7. Students should be encouraged to develop important social and interpersonal skills by being encouraged to interact face to face rather than through the medium of their mobile phone.

2. Details and Procedures

- 2.1. Mobile phones can be brought to school but must remain off or silent and completely out of view on-site whenever a student is on the school site; this includes wired and wireless earphones and any other attachments.
- 2.2. Any phone or attachments in view during school hours will be confiscated, logged and securely held until the end of the school day, at which point it can be collected by its owner. Earphones in ears will imply current mobile phone use. Both the earphones and the phone will be confiscated in such scenarios.
- 2.3. If a student wishes to contact home they must go to reception and request that the office makes contact.
- 2.4. Continued unacceptable use of mobile phones will result in escalating sanctions (detail provided below).
- 2.5. The school will not be held responsible for missing or damaged mobile phones, and any theft or damage that occurs either on the way to and from school, or in school, will not be investigated by the school. Mobile phones are brought into school at the owner's risk.
- 2.6. In certain cases, such as issues pertaining to Safeguarding and/or Child Protection, it may be deemed necessary to pass a confiscated phone to, or seek advice from, the police.
- 2.7. In issues relating to unauthorised video or photos, the student responsible will be required to delete these in the presence of a parent or carer and a representative of the school.
- 2.8. If parents need to contact students, they should do so by contacting the school office (01628 625308 or office@furzeplatt.com)
- 2.9. Members of staff will be expected to model appropriate mobile phone use during school hours.
- 2.10. There may be instances where the class teacher has planned a lesson in which the learning will be enhanced by the use of mobile phones. If the teacher believes that this is an appropriate use of technology, they must ensure that their use is carefully monitored throughout the learning. Provision must also be made for students who do not have a mobile phone to be able to fully engage in the learning.
- 2.11. Sixth formers may use their mobile phones in the sixth form common room/areas, but outside these areas the same policy will apply as for all students.
- 2.12. Smart watches are not banned in school, but alerts and notifications should be on silent. Smart watches will be confiscated, as above, if notifications or communication disrupt learning.

Ladder of sanctions for mobile phone use

Scenario	Possible Outcome
Mobile phone and/or ear/headphones visible on school site.	Phone is confiscated by member of staff and inserted in a bag on which student's name is written. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. Owner can retrieve the phone by signing for it at the end of the day. Student receives C2 Detention.
Confiscation of mobile phone and/or ear/headphones three times in any one half-term.	Phone is confiscated by member of staff and inserted in a bag on which student's name is written. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. The phone can only be retrieved by parents. Student receives an afterschool C4 Detention.
Confiscation of mobile phone and/or ear/headphones five times in any one half-term.	Confiscation procedure as above. The phone can only be retrieved by parents. Student is Isolated for one day (C5). Student is banned from bringing phone into school for half a term – has to hand phone into Reception every morning / collect at the end of the day.
Refusal to hand over mobile phone and/or ear/headphones.	Student will spend the remainder of the day in Isolation. In some cases of non-compliance where rudeness is involved, it may be necessary to extend the period of Isolation or change the sanction to a Suspension.
Recording and/or sharing of unauthorised video and/or images.	Confiscation procedures as above. 1-day Isolation with possible Suspension depending on the severity of the situation. Phone will only be returned following a parental meeting at which images and/or video will be deleted. If the material constitutes a Safeguarding/Child Protection risk, the phone may be handed over to the police.

3. Links to other policies

This policy complements and supports a range of other policies, including:

- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Cyber-bullying policy
- Acceptable Use of ICT

4. Monitoring & Review

- 4.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher.
- 4.2. Staff will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.