



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 the benefits that technology can provide at school, it should be recognised that increasing mobile phone use undermines 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, as we recognise that students may require them for their journeys to and from school, but must be switched off upon arrival at the school site and locked in each student's Yondr pouch (issued by the school). This includes wired and wireless earphones and any other attachments.
- 2.2. Once phones and accessories are in their Yondr pouches, the pouches must be placed in larger pockets or bags, where they must remain until students leave the site at the end of the school day.
- 2.3. Any phone or attachments in view during school hours will be confiscated, logged and securely held until the end of the week, at which point it can be collected by a parent between 3:30 and 4:00pm on Friday. Earphones in ears will imply current mobile phone use. Both the earphones and the phone will be confiscated in such scenarios.
 - 2.3.1. Should a student need their phone for a specific reason before the end of the week, a parent must arrange to come into school to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and collect this on behalf of the student. The phone will need to be handed in to reception for the remainder of the week (or a definitive period of time) thereafter.
- 2.4. If a student wishes to contact home during the school day they must go to Reception and request that the office makes contact, or speak to their respective Pastoral Manager.
- 2.5. Continued unacceptable use of mobile phones will result in escalating sanctions (detail provided below).
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. If parents need to contact students, they should do so by contacting the school office (01628 625308 or office@furzeplatt.com)
- 2.10. Members of staff will be expected to model appropriate mobile phone use during school hours.
- 2.11. There are no circumstances in which students in Years 7-11 will be asked or required to use their mobile phones during lessons.
- 2.12. Sixth Form students 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.

- 2.13. Smart watches are not banned in school, but alerts and notifications should be on silent. As phones should be off during the school day, smart watches should not be receiving any notifications from them. Smart watches will be confiscated, as above, if notifications or communication disrupt learning.
- 2.14. Mobile phones are only permitted in school whilst locked in the Yondr phone pouch. SLT will conduct routine spot checks to ensure that students are complying with this policy.
- 2.15. In the case of a mobile phone being confiscated, an alternative school device will be offered to the families of students for students to use in the interim.
- 2.16. If a student brings in a second phone, or places a decoy in their pouch, then their phone will be confiscated and parents contacted to come in and discuss the matter further with a member of SLT.
- 2.17. Refusal to hand devices to a member of staff will result in the student being sent to Isolation room where a member of SLT will address the issue.
- 2.18. Refusal to hand in devices to SLT will result in a one-day suspension.

Ladder of sanctions for mobile phone use

Scenario	Possible Outcome
Forgetting pouch	Phone handed to Reception. C2 (breaktime) detention.
Mobile phone and/or ear/headphones visible on school site outside a Yondr pouch.	Phone / accessory is confiscated by member of staff. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. Parent / carer can retrieve the phone / accessory by signing for it at Reception between 3:30-4:00pm on the Friday of that week. Student receives an afterschool C4 Detention.
Confiscation of mobile phone and/or ear/headphones more than once in any one half-term.	Phone / accessory is confiscated by member of staff. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. Parent / carer can retrieve the phone / accessory by signing for it at Reception between 3:30-4:00pm on the Friday of that week. Student receives minimum (immediate) one day Isolation. 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.
Decoy / second device brought into school at any time.	Phone / accessory is confiscated by member of staff. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. Parent / carer can retrieve the phone / accessory by signing for it at Reception between 3:30-4:00pm on the Friday of that week. Student receives minimum (immediate) one day Isolation. 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.
Deliberate damage to a pouch that results in it not being able to lock.	Phone / accessory is confiscated by member of staff. Phone is logged and held centrally and securely at Reception. Parent / carer can retrieve the phone / accessory by signing for it at Reception between 3:30-4:00pm on the Friday of that week. Student receives minimum (immediate) one day Isolation. 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. £15 charge for replacement pouch.
Refusal to hand over mobile phone and/or ear/headphones.	Student will spend a minimum of the remainder of the day in Isolation. Failure to hand the phone in once in Isolation will result in 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.
Accidental damage or lost pouch – phone unable to be locked away	Phone / accessory to be handed in at Reception. On first day, parents will be informed, and the student may collect the phone themselves at 3:15. From Day 2, a replacement Pouch needs to be purchased, or parents need to collect phone. Students may opt not to bring their phone into school instead. Replacement Pouches will be charged at £15.

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 bi-annually by the Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour & Attitudes) Staff will be required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.