

The Whitstable School Mobile Phones Protocol



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1. In line with the advice and guidance issued by the Department for Education, the Department of Health and the United Nations, the school strongly discourages students from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices to school.
2. To prevent any disruption to learning, if a student brings a mobile phone or other electronic devices to school, it must be switched off and kept out of sight in their school bag once the student is on the school premises. Unless given explicit permission by a member of staff, it cannot be used during the school day including breaktime and lunchtime. It cannot be used anywhere on the school site including the restaurant, playgrounds, fields and toilets. It cannot be used for any reasons, including (but not limited to) contacting home or taking photos of learning materials.
3. **Sixth Form:** Sixth form students are allowed to bring personal electronic devices into school in order to use them as part of their independent study. They can only be seen and used in the Sixth Form area in C block. This is a privilege and can be revoked for individual students if not used appropriately. If a mobile phone is seen or used outside of the Sixth Form area, it will be confiscated and handed to a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team.
4. **Years 7-11:** If a mobile phone or electronic device is seen, heard, used or found to have been used during the school day, it will be confiscated by a member of the inclusion team.
5. Headphones (including earpods and AirPods) and speakers are not permitted in school. If they are seen or heard on the school site, including at break and lunchtime and in social spaces, they will be confiscated by staff and handed to reception.
6. Searches for and confiscation of mobile phones and electronic devices is done so in accordance with the Department for Education advice on Searching, Screening and Confiscation:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

As with any item confiscated in school, the mobile phones and electronic devices (including headphones) are only returned at the Headteacher's discretion as stated in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act (2006). **The school will not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones, headphones or any other electronic devices, even if they have been confiscated.**

7. Mobile phones Confiscation

Any pupil who refuses to hand in their mobile phone will be placed in the Pupil Support Provision as a sanction, but there will still be an expectation that the same phone is handed in, even if this happens later on. Mobile phones that are confiscated by staff will be kept securely and can be collected from the school reception. An adult family member must collect the phone.

8. Parents/carers are politely asked to not call or message their child during the school day. Parents/carers who want to contact their child should call the school. We also ask that parents/carers discourage their child from calling or messaging them during the school day. **Please note, if a mobile phone is used or is found to have been used during the school day, it will be confiscated by a member of the inclusion team. Therefore, accepting a call or reading a message from a parent/carer during the school day may result in the child's phone being confiscated.**
9. Exam board regulations stipulate that no mobile phones may be taken into an exam hall under any circumstance. Any breaches of this will lead to disqualification from that exam and possibly other exams.
10. Breaches of this policy will be treated as any other breach of school rules. Incidents of cyber bullying or the possession of phones with illegal content will be treated in accordance with the relevant school policies.

11. Serious or repeated breaches of this policy and/or failure to engage with it (including refusing to hand over a phone when asked to by a member of staff) will result in the student losing the privilege of being allowed a phone on the school site.
12. The only person who may vary this aspect of the policy is the Headteacher following a written application from a parent/carer. The presumption will be that permission will be refused, however each case will be judged individually on its own merits.