




Mobile Phones Policy

Adopted by Netherhall School Governing Body

on: August 31st, 2024

Signed:  **(Neil Watt, Chair of Governors)**

Anticipated review date: August, 2025

Equality Act 2010

Our school is committed to equality both as an employer and a service provider. We welcome our general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. In addition, we recognise our specific duties to publish information every year about our school population; explain how we have due regard for equality; publish equality objectives which show how we plan to tackle particular inequalities and reduce or remove them.

We recognise our duty to ensure no-one experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination because of their age, any disability they may have, their ethnicity, colour or national origin, their gender identity or reassignment, their marital or civil partnership status, being pregnant or having recently had a baby, their religion or belief, their sexual identity and orientation.

We also welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion and British values.

Aim

The removal of mobile phones on school premises and in school time to reduce distraction, disruption and diversion supporting concentration and engagement; the promotion of social interaction, conversation and physical activity; the limitation of the risks and dangers associated with social media, cyber-bullying, peer pressure and stigma.

Practice

- Students don't bring mobile phones to school.
- If a mobile phone is brought to school, it is to stay in the student's bag throughout the day and is to stay switched off throughout the school day.
- If the mobile phone is seen to be in use during lesson times or during social times: breakfast, breaktime, lunchtime, lesson change, etc. the mobile phone will be confiscated and put in to safe storage until the end of the school day, where it can be collected from students' services.
- Refusal to hand over the mobile phone for confiscation would result in seclusion, the awarding of a behaviour point and detention.
- If the student is a serial / repeat transgressor of the no mobile phone on school site policy, parents / carers will be asked to come into school to collect the mobile phone from safe storage at students' services. The parents / carers will be asked to not allow their child to bring their mobile phone to school.
- Sixth form students are allowed to use their mobile phone in the sixth form study room, but not in the rest of the school; this includes at break and lunchtimes in the canteen.
- Students can use their mobile phones after 3.00pm / 3.05pm to inform parents / carers / significant others about the arrangements for after school extracurricular and enrichment activities.
- If a student needs to get in contact with home / parents / family / significant others, they are to ask permission from their teacher, go to students' services to make a private phone call, which they can do so under the supervision of the students' services team.
- If a student has a serious medical condition which requires the use of a mobile phone app, for example Diabetes, they will be issued with a card giving full permission to have and use their mobile phone in school for the purpose of monitoring and supporting the treatment of the condition.
- Students will be welcome to hand in their mobile phone to students' services at the start of the day for safe keeping and to collect the mobile phone from students' services at the end of the day.
- Please be informed that the school wifi system does not support the use of smart watches. As smart watches are expensive and valuable items it is recommended that students do not bring smart watches to school as they won't be supported to work.
- All staff will be asked to lead by example and to use an electronic device, like an i-pad in school for operational activities like registration, Edulink, colleague support, etc.
- All visitors to the school will be asked not to use their mobile phones whilst on the school premises.
- All students will be supplied with a planner which will contain their timetable and their code to access their account for school dinners and breaktime snacks.
- The school is working hard to ensure that for lessons and learning, all students can readily access an electronic device such as an i-pad, lap top computer or PC to support them with their in-school learning in lessons.
- For the purposes of homework, it should firstly be completed at home. If the student requires in-school support to complete their homework, they will be able to do this using one of the school's electronic devices in school, such as an iPad, lap top computer or PC.