



# Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

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### 1.0 Key Information

This policy is for all teachers and students to follow in the school and is written in line with the laws around what is acceptable use for a mobile phone in schools for pupils.

This policy means all items deemed electrical personal devices including but not exhaustive to mobiles phones, iPods, iPads, MP3, MP4 players and electronic device is any similar portable electronic devices including gaming consoles and other tablets.

### 2.0 Why do we have this policy?

The staff at Ellern Mede recognise that mobile phones and some electronic devices are an important part of young people's daily life and for a variety of reasons including for a long journey to school or used to support safe independent travel to and from school.

However, there are some ways in which mobile phones or electronic devices can be used which can be inappropriate, can harm others or could also cause disruption to learning. Examples of this could be bullying, using them to communicate inappropriately with others, using social platforms, looking at inappropriate websites or taking photos or videos of others without their consent which is all against our safeguarding protocols.

This policy sets out how students are expected to use their mobile phones or electronic devices during the school day, how they will be responsible for keeping them safe so that we can continue to allow them to bring them into school.

### 3.0 If you choose to bring your phone to school.

If you choose to bring your phone or any electronic devices to school, you agree to the rules of this policy.

It is your parent's decision to give you a mobile phone and it is important that they understand the risks involved in you having a mobile device. We also suggest that your parents have the appropriate insurance cover for any devices you bring into school.



## Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

If you choose to bring a mobile phone or electronic device to school, the following will apply:

- The phone or electronic device remains the responsibility of the student and they understand the rules around this. If it is lost or stolen, the school will not be responsible and will take no action. If your phone gets lost, stolen or broken it is the responsibility of your parents to ensure that they have the correct protection for it to be replaced.
- The phone or device should be clearly marked with the student's full name.
- You should not use your phone or device at all in school and it must be turned off and locked away all day.
- The phone or device should be switched off before the student enters the school site and placed in their school bag.
- Once in their form rooms, students must lock away their phone or device in the student's personal locker immediately.
- The phone or device should not be brought out at any point during the school day and should only be switched on and used after school when they have left the school building.
- If children arrive after tutor time, they MUST hand their phone into reception on arrival and will have it returned to them at the end of the day.
- Mobile phones or devices, unless you have special permission, are not allowed to be used to; make calls, send texts, surf the internet, take photos or use apps during the school day.
- If a student needs to use their mobile or device for an exceptional circumstance whilst on the school site, they must get permission from a member of staff and use the mobile or device in front of the member of staff.
- If a student is allowed to take a mobile phone or electronic device on a school visit/residential trip, it will remain the responsibility of the student to follow the rules set out for that trip or activity. The phone will remain the responsibility for the student for the duration of the trip.
- Your parents should not be communicating with you during the school day on your mobile or device. If they need to speak with you or give you a message, they will contact the school office.
- You should not be communicating with your parents or anyone else from your mobile phone or device during the school day. If you need to communicate with someone, you must speak with a member of staff, and it will be decided if this is appropriate and how the school will support this.
- You should not be looking at things which are violent or sexual on your phone and the school are asking that your parents check them regularly for this.
- If the school think that you have been doing things like taking photos or downloading sexual or violent content on your phone during the school day, we are allowed to check your phone and can delete content which is deemed inappropriate.
- The school can also keep your phone and the content if what you have been downloading is shown to be criminal activity.
- You should not be looking at anything which is violent or sexual on your phone.
- Mobiles which are being used to bully or threaten other students is completely unacceptable. If cyber-bullying is happening this can become criminal behaviour and the police would be informed. The agreement you have signed will mean that you could lose your right to have a mobile phone at school.
- You should not use phones to make fun of people, to gang up on people and take videos or photos of people students or staff in or out of school. If you take photos of staff or students without their consent, you will be immediately told to delete them and will have lost the right to have your mobile phone it will be confiscated.



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- You should not have any files or content on your phone which are violent, degrading, racist, homophobic, transphobic, biphobic, anti-Semitic or abusive. Your phone can be searched for this and it can be deemed as a criminal offence.
- 'Sexting', 'Upskirting', 'downshirting' or sending 'nudes' is a criminal offence and the police would be informed of this and your phone could be confiscated potentially used as evidence.
- 'Ukskirting' and 'downshirting' is taking photos under other people's clothes to try and take photos of their private parts in order to use it for sexual reasons or to make fun of others. This is a criminal offence.

**Remember almost all calls, text messages and emails the police can gain access to if they need to.**

### 4.0 What will happen if you break the rules?

If you break the rules of using your mobile phone or device in school, the following will happen:

1. The first time your phone will be taken and put in a secure place for the rest of the day. You can collect it at the end of the day and we will record that you have had it confiscated.
2. If you have your phone confiscated for a second time this will mean you also will not be able to bring your phone to school for a certain period of time. If it is required for travel the phone will be stored in the school office during the day for the number of days you have been banned.
3. If your phone is confiscated for a third time, you will not be able to collect it yourself instead your parents will have to collect it and there will be a meeting to discuss how long you will be not allowed your phone in school. If it is required for travel the phone will be stored in the school office during the day for the number of days you have been banned.
4. If you continue to break the rules around phone usage you will lose the right to have a mobile phone on the school site until it can be discussed again for the next school term or year.

There may be occasions where a member of staff is required to search a student's bag to look for a mobile phone or device (this will be done in accordance with the DfE guidance on searching and screening):

- If during a search a mobile or device is found it will be confiscated and locked away in the school office.
- Any phone that is seen or heard during the school day will automatically be confiscated.

**If your phone is confiscated and locked away, we will follow the phone rules above.**