



# Perton Middle School

## Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

### Overview

Mobile phones are not required in school and we do not endorse students bringing them to school for any reason. However, we do recognise that many parents and carers like to be able to contact their children at the end of the day regarding travel home etc. In view of this, we do not prohibit students from bringing them to school as long as the following rules are observed.

### Rules

- 1. Phones should be switched off at all times on the school premises and kept in bags out of sight. They should never be kept in an item of clothing upon a student's person.**
- 2. Phones may not be used on the premises at any time unless a student has permission and is supervised by a member of staff.**
- 3. No other electronic device, including Smart watches, is permitted at any time.**
- 4. Students bringing mobile phones in to school do so completely at their own risk; school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage.**
- 5. If a student breaks these rules, they will be banned from bringing a mobile phone in to school or will have to sign it in to reception at the start of the day depending on the circumstances.**

### Rationale

- The school places great importance on the wellbeing and safety of all individuals and mobile phone use during the school day has been proven to lead to incidents of
  - bullying
  - intimidation
  - deteriorating mental health and wellbeing.

Learning is impacted upon in a negative way by issues around mobile phone use for

social purposes.

### **Practical application of the policy.**

If a child is seen with a mobile phone during the school day anywhere on our school site or has a phone switched on, the following consequences will apply.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

1. The phone will be confiscated by the member of staff. Refusal to hand a phone over to a member of staff will result in a sanction proportionate to the circumstances.
2. The member of staff will take the phone to reception or a safe place where it will be stored.
3. The phone will ONLY be returned to the parent/carer, person recorded as having parental responsibility on our school system in person or a named adult who is not a student at the school and is nominated by a parent/carer. This must be by 3.45 pm. No collection can be made after this time.
4. When the phone is collected, this policy has to be signed. It explains the sanctions if this situation occurs again.
5. Depending on the circumstances, the child will either be required to hand their phone in at reception each morning or will be banned from bringing it in to school at all.
6. Random checks will be carried out during the remainder of the term to ensure that the student is not in possession of their phone.

**If there are any incidents of mobile phone use in school which interfere with teaching and learning or a phone is used to record, listen in to students or teachers or to compromise the dignity of any member of our community, stringent sanctions will be applied.**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA INCIDENTS**

Incidents on social media involving our students which occur out of school are the responsibility of parents and carers and school will not sanction or investigate. As a middle school, we do not condone the use of social media amongst our students as most are below the legal age requirements and we believe that social media sites can be damaging to the wellbeing and mental health of children. However, if a student or a parent/carer uses a site to bring the school or its staff in to disrepute, we will sanction or instigate legal action as appropriate.

We regularly upload help sites to our webpage to help parents and carers to

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navigate the increasingly complex issues inherent within the IT domain and would strongly recommend the use of filters on all children's devices. Concerns about threatening or criminal behaviour online should be reported to the police. If parents, carers, members of the public or students have concerns about any of our students based on information gained from social media, we ask them to follow the safeguarding procedures below.

- **Contact a member of the safeguarding team in school. These details can be found on our school website and are displayed in reception as well as in prominent places around school.**
- **Contact your local PCSO by calling 101 or reporting it online at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/>**
- **Contact Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service (SCASS) on 0300 111 8007**

**For emergencies, contact 999.**





