

Mobile Phone Policy

**North
Walsham**
High School

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1. Amendment History

Author	Version	Reason	Date

2. Linked Documents

Title	File Name	Location

3. Aims

The term ‘phone’ in this policy denotes mobiles phones, iPods, iPads, MP3, MP4 players and any similar portable electronic devices.

The School recognises that mobile phones, cameras and digital devices are now an integral part of our culture and can be of considerable value, particularly in relation to personal safety. However, balanced with this is the need to safeguard children and staff from cyber bullying, inappropriate use of the Internet and telecommunications, and the misuse of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram.

This policy has been compiled after consultation with parents and staff through briefings, the Parents’ Forum, The Newsflash and via email.

The policy at NWHHS is that student phones are banned from the school site during the academic day.

Aside from the safeguarding issue the rationale for this is that it has been shown that the effect of banning mobile phones from school premises adds up to the equivalent of an extra week’s schooling over a pupil’s academic year. This is according to research by Louis-Philippe Beland and Richard Murphy, published by the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics.

“Ill Communication: The Impact of Mobile Phones on Student Performance” found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of students aged 16 improved by 6.4%. The economists reckon that this is the “equivalent of adding five days to the school year”. According to Beland and Murphy, a phone ban produced improvements in test scores among students, with the lowest-achieving students gaining twice as much as average students. The ban had a greater positive impact on students with special education needs and those eligible for free school meals, while having no discernible effect on high achievers.

“We found that not only did student achievement improve, but also that low-achieving and low-income students gained the most. We found the impact of banning phones for these students was equivalent to an additional hour a week in school, or to increasing the school year by five days.

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4. Use of Personal Mobile Phones for Students

The school recognises that parents/carers in a rural community feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication home. This helps with safeguarding and child protection especially in the long dark winter months.

NWHS supports this approach wholeheartedly.

To that end NWHS has adopted the following mobile phone best use policy:

- Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety at all times.
- If a student brings their phone to school then on arrival at school their phone is to be placed immediately in their locker. Lockers are available online.
- If a child does not have a locker then they will be unable to bring a phone into school.
- The phone can be retrieved from their locker only at the end of the school day. Not before and not during any period of social time (break or lunch).
- Any student found in possession of their phone during the school day will have the phone confiscated and a letter will be sent home inviting parents to come in and collect the phone from school.
- The student will also incur a C5 the following day.
- No phones will be handed back to the child – only to parents.
- Any refusal to hand a phone over to members of staff will result in an immediate C6 under the schools behaviour policy. This would constitute the refusal of a reasonable request by a member of staff.
- Any requirement for a parent/carer to contact a student or a student to contact their parent/carer can be done through the school reception or through the Year Learning Teams.

5. Use of Personal Mobile Phones for Staff

The school recognises that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately. Mobile phones should never be used to take photographs or video of children

Personal mobile phones should not generally be needed or used by staff, except as set out in the guidelines below:

- Should Staff need to use their mobile phone, best practice is that mobile phones, wherever possible, should not be used in the presence of the children.
- Mobile phones must not be used during lesson times either to make or receive calls, unless there is an emergency.
- Staff should never give their mobile phone number to any pupils. This also includes past pupils under the age of 18 years.
- Staff should exercise caution when giving their mobile number to parents as this could be misconstrued. The school is aware that some staff members are also parents at the school. If in doubt discuss this with a member of the SLT.
- PE staff may use their mobile phones during PE sessions and when responsible for children away from school, only to communicate arrangements to parents or colleagues or for emergency purposes.
- Trips and Visits Offsite: The staff member in charge should take one of the school mobile phones when off site. This phone should be used when communicating with parents. Other staff members on the trip or offsite should carry their mobile phones so they can communicate with colleagues when necessary or in an emergency.
- Staff Mobile phones (including personal mobile phones) could contain confidential information regarding other members of staff such as personal phone numbers, e-mail addresses or pictures.
- All mobile phones brought onto the premises (including personal mobile phones) should have a password locking system enabled to ensure that their contents remain secure in the case of loss.

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6. Responsibility for loss and disclaimer

As previously stated it is understood why parents may want their child to bring a mobile phone into school in a rural community. Whereas this is understood and as such we have provided lockers for these phones to be placed in, the School retains no liability for any phone that is brought into school which is either lost, stolen or damaged or used in a manner which is against the owner's consent.

The School's advice is to leave mobiles at home and use the old system of contact through the reception. If however you have purchased a locker and your child's phone is deposited in that locker for the day the responsibility for that phone rests with you and the locker company.