



# Mobile Device Policy

**Policy & Procedure No.**

**ED13**

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**Written by:**

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## Reference to

RESPECT Agenda  
Positive Behaviour Policy  
Anti-bullying Policy  
Child Protection  
Risk Assessment

## 1. Rationale

Amberley Court School (ACS) believes that mobile phones are part of modern society and most students will now own a mobile phone. We understand that for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone in order to contact parents/carers after school/before school. However, mobile phones can lead to several problems in school, for example bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate web usage. As a school we strongly encourage our students to talk to each other and develop friendship groups at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones. As a result of these issues and historic safeguarding issues both internally and externally of the school environment, the use of mobile phones during school hours will be banned henceforth.

## 2. Our Aims and Principles

### 2.1 Our Aims

1. To clarify the school position on mobile phones.
2. To ensure that staff, students and parents are fully conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
3. To support our positive behaviour policy, which aims for outstanding behaviour and safety of students across the school.
4. To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised.

### 2.2 Our Principles

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 staff and taking into consideration the views of Ofsted and the government.

*"There's no doubt that technology has made the challenge of low-level disruption even worse, which is why I also support recent calls to back heads who have decided that the way to improve behaviour is to ban mobile phones in their schools"*

Ms Spielman (Ofsted Chief Inspector)

According to research by Louis-Philippe Beland and Richard Murphy, published by the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics, 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”*

The school recognises that parents/carers feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication home before and after schooling hours. This helps with safeguarding and child protection especially in the long dark winter months and ACS supports this approach wholeheartedly.

The ban during school hours will:

- provide a safe and secure environment for all
- promote the positive behaviour of all pupils
- support the positive access of all pupils, whatever their special educational need, to all aspects of the school community.
- allow all students to feel safe and secure within the school environment
- promote respect for peers, adults, and the environment
- enable the school to work closely with parents, carers and other agencies to provide consistency of approach and shared expectation

### 3. School Expectations

In addition to supporting the pupils’ social, emotional and moral development and academical progress, the school has a central role in safeguarding their wellbeing and security in a safe and secure environment.

The school understands that each of its pupils are unique and have a wide variety of behaviour patterns based on their stage of development, special educational need and differences in home values, attitudes and parenting skills.

At school we work towards standards of behaviour based on the basic principles of mutual respect, consideration, caring and responsibility for oneself and others. It follows that the reduction of access to mobile devices whilst in school will reflect these principles.

The expectations of ACS are:

- Students can always bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety
- If a student brings their phone to school then on arrival at school their phone is to be placed immediately with a trusted member of staff (usually their class teacher)
- If a child does not want to fulfil this requirement then they will be unable to bring a phone into school; parents/carers will be informed

- The phone can be retrieved from their designated adult at the end of the school day, if required for supervised de-escalation or if the use of a mobile device is specifically required within a lesson (Teacher led). It will not be given out before or 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
- No phones will be handed back to the child in this instance, only to parents unless precise instruction is given by a member of the schools' SLT
- 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/office
- 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 a school mobile phone 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 so all should have a secure pin system activated
- 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

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.

## 4. School and Parent Responsibility

- 4.1 The school accepts no responsibility **whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones or other digital equipment in the possession of pupils or confiscated by staff and will not undertake any related investigation. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile phones and other digital equipment are properly insured.
- 4.2 Parents/Carers have a responsibility to enable the young people they care for to use their mobile devices safely and with respect to others in mind.

### Safe and respectful mobile phone use

If your child uses his/her mobile phone to communicate independently with others or access the internet, it increases the risk that he/she will come across content that bothers them. It also exposes your child to risks like cyberbullying, sexting, inappropriate content, and contact with strangers.

You can help protect your child from risky or inappropriate content and activities by teaching him/her about internet safety.

You can also talk to your child about:

- managing safety and privacy settings on his phone – for example, checking that social media profiles are private and locking the phone with a pin
- not entering personal details like name, address or date of birth into online accounts or forms
- accepting new social media friend requests only from people he knows face to face
- checking which apps use location services and switching off the ones he doesn't need. This can ensure that your child isn't showing his location to nearby people that he doesn't know
- Respecting other people's feelings and communicating with them in a manner that is appropriate and does not cause harm or offence

## 5. Complaints

The availability of a clear policy about the use of mobile devices and the involvement of parents/carers should reduce the likelihood of complaints but may not eliminate them.

Any complaints about staff confiscating mobile devices will be investigated through the School's Complaints Policy. If necessary, the complaint will be dealt with by the Staff Disciplinary Procedures and/or Child Protection Procedures.

**END**

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|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--|------------------|--|-------------|--|
| <b>POSITION</b> | Headteacher | <b>NAME</b> |  | <b>SIGNATURE</b> |  | <b>DATE</b> |  |
| <b>POSITION</b> | Governor    | <b>NAME</b> |  | <b>SIGNATURE</b> |  | <b>DATE</b> |  |