



Porth Community School



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PORTH
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy

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Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction

At Porth Community School, we are committed to creating a safe, focused and inclusive learning environment. Whilst we appreciate that mobile phones (and linked devices) are very much a part of the modern world, we are also fully aware of their impact on pupil learning, wellbeing and mental health, including:

- **Impact on Learning:** A 2025 survey of secondary schools in England revealed that more than 90% of secondary schools have implemented some sort of smartphone ban[1]. This widespread adoption reflects a growing consensus among educators that mobile phones are a significant distraction and barrier to effective learning.
- **Mental Health Concerns:** A 2024 study by King's College London found that teenagers with problematic smartphone use were twice as likely to experience anxiety compared to their peers [2]. The study, which surveyed students aged 13-18 across multiple UK regions, also noted that many young people expressed a desire to reduce their phone use, indicating awareness of its negative impact.
- **Equity and Classroom Management:** Use of smartphones can cause issues for pupils from different socio-economic backgrounds. It can also make classroom management difficult for teachers when they are trying to monitor and enforce inconsistent phone use policies.

The evidence from UK schools and academic research strongly supports banning mobile phones in schools. Such policies not only improve academic focus and reduce anxiety but also foster a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

1. Policy Aims

- To set out a clear set of guidelines for pupils and staff regarding the use of mobile phones (and associated devices) in school.
- To set out clear processes for the storage and confiscation of mobile phones.

2. Mobile Phone Rules

These rules apply to all pupils in school from nursery to year 11.

- Mobile phones should not be seen, heard or used by pupils from the time they arrive on our school site until they leave at the end of the day.
'On site out of sight'
- If Nythbran pupils wish to carry mobile phones on their journey to/from school they should be switched off and stored in their school bag before they come onto school site.
- If Y Goedwig pupils in year 5 and 6 wish to carry a mobile phone on their journey to/from school they should be handed to their classroom teacher on arrival. The mobile phone (and any linked devices) will be stored securely in the classroom.

- Any mobile phone that is sighted or heard will be confiscated by staff regardless of whether pupils have been seen using it.
- The '**on site out of sight**' rules for mobile phones also apply to any linked devices such as air pods, headphones and smart watches and other digital devices such as tablets, computer consoles and ipads.
- The mobile phone rules apply to all areas of the school site and at all times of the day including break time and lunchtime.

3. Confiscating Mobile Phones

- If a mobile phone is sighted it will be confiscated by a member of staff.
- The pupil will be asked to switch off their phone and hand it over to the member of staff. The member of staff will place the mobile phone into an envelope and clearly label it with the pupil name, form and condition of the phone. The member of staff will then use the '**mobile phone (1)**' button for a member of the SLT to come and collect the mobile phone. It will then be taken to the Wellbeing Office (by the member of SLT) where it will be stored securely until the end of the day.
- If the pupil refuses to hand in their mobile phone the member of staff should still press the '**refusal to hand over mobile phone**' button and wait for a member of SLT to arrive. The member of SLT will take the pupil outside the classroom and give them further opportunity to hand in their phone.
- In the case of continued refusal, the SLT member will follow the usual school behavior processes (as detailed in our ***Behaviour for Learning Policy***) for refusal to follow school rules. The sanction for defiance is being placed in the reflection room.
- If a member of staff needs to confiscate a mobile phone outside of lessons they should ask the pupil to hand over their phone and take the phone to the wellbeing office. The member of staff should record this on class charts using the '**mobile phone (1)**' button when they return to their classroom. If the pupil refuses to hand over the phone, the member of staff should use the '**refusal to hand over mobile phone**' button on class charts when they return to their classroom. A member of the SLT or Wellbeing Team will then follow up.
- Pupils will be able to collect their phones from the Wellbeing Office at the end of the day after they are dismissed from last lesson. The phone should be stored in their bag until they leave the school site.

4. Emergency Contact

- Parents/carers who need to contact their children during the school day will be able to do so by calling either the main reception or appropriate wellbeing office.
- Messages/important information will be shared with pupils as soon as possible.
- If pupils wish to contact home they can do so at breaktime or lunchtime from the Wellbeing Office.

5. Use on School Trips

- The use of mobile phones on school trips is at the discretion of the trip leader.

6. Exceptions

- Use of mobile phones in after school clubs is not encouraged, however, we would not expect staff to confiscate mobile phones after school hours. Staff may also allow pupils

to contact parent/carers after school hours to organise transport arrangements/let them know that they are still in school etc.

- Pupils who require devices for medical purposes will be granted an exception. These pupils will carry a pass from the Wellbeing Team.

7. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones are not to be used during contact time with pupils, for example, when teaching, supporting pupils in the classroom or carrying out duties. All staff including agency and support staff are required to adhere to this policy.
- Devices can be used to access Microsoft authenticator and in case of emergencies.
- Personal mobile phones are not to be used to take photographs of pupils or other staff without authorisation from a member of the SLT.

References

[1] <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/more-than-90-of-schools-in-england-ban-smartphone-use-13-us-states-have-already-taken-action/>

[2] <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>