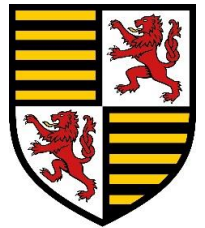


# WARMINSTER SCHOOL

## Mobile Phone Policy



1707

Date of Latest Review: 31 August 2024  
Responsible Person: Deputy Head

### Rationale

At Warminster School we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community. We also, however, recognise the problems that can come with smart phone use, especially for pupils and teenagers, and therefore understand that the school, like all schools, has an important role to play in protecting pupils from the problems of smart phones and social media, while also educating pupils in their use, and continuing to enable access to technologies which are educationally beneficial.

The government has introduced guidance which encourages all schools to introduce rules which prohibit the use of phones at school, to help pupils focus on their education, and the friends and staff around them. The guidance may be found at the following link: [Mobile Phones in Schools | February 2024](#)

This new guidance says that:

*Schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones, but gives them autonomy on how to do this.*

*Schools may allow phones to be brought onto the premises but recommends that they are not used during school hours.*

This brings England in line with other countries who have put in place similar rules, including France, Italy and Portugal. The guidance sets out that there will be some limited cases where pupils should be exempt from the rules for medical reasons, or because they have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This will include situations where, for example, a diabetic pupil may need to use their phone as a monitoring device. Warminster School supports this approach wholeheartedly, and the policy is written in support of this guidance.

### Purpose

- To clarify the school position on mobile phones.
- To ensure that all members of the School community are conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
- To support our behaviour management policy, which aims for outstanding behaviour and safety of students across the school.
- To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised.

### Guidelines

- Our strong preference is that pupils do not bring a phone to school. However, we recognise that there are legitimate safety reasons for doing so if they travel to/from school independently.
- Pupils in all years will not be allowed any 'wearable technology', for example smart watches, during the school day.
- From Y7-Y11, any mobile phones brought into school will be handed in daily - hand-in will take place between 8.20 – 8.35 and will be overseen by HoH/LT.
- Parents (Years 7-11) will be asked to complete a Mobile Phone Notification Form if their child is bringing a mobile phone to school
- Mobile phones will be stored securely until given back to pupils at 5 pm (or earlier on the days when they have a fixture and are not due to return to school before 5 pm).
- Phones will be handed in, secured and returned by HoH/LT from the Weymouth Building Foyer.
- Boarders in Year 7-11 will leave mobile phones locked in their Boarding House, during the school day.
- Pupils In Year 7 – 11 arriving late will hand mobile phones into The Foundry or 29 Church Street.

- In the Sixth Form, phones are expected to be invisible and kept switched off during lesson time. Pupils will be able to use mobile phones in Townroe Lodge (Sixth Form Centre) during break and lunchtime
- Sixth Form pupils will hand in their phones if Director of Sixth Form/Head of House places them on Academic Concerns list.

### **Other considerations**

- Clearly, this stance means that there will be no expectation for pupils in Year 7 -11 to use mobile phones to support their learning and any sessions which require pupils to use or have sight of Firefly, will take place in one of our computer rooms.
- If parents or guardians have messages that need to be passed to their children they will be asked to email/contact their child's tutor, Head of House, Boarding or Reception who will pass these on.
- Parents will be asked to complete a Mobile Phone Notification Form if their child will be bringing a mobile phone into school.

### **Sanctions**

#### **Pupils in Years 7-11**

- If a pupil (Years 7-11) is found using a phone having not handed it in, they should expect to receive an 'on-the-spot' sanction in the form of a Senior School Detention (Friday Evening).
- Handing in of a fake phone will result in a Deputy Headmaster's detention (Saturday morning) with the fake phone returned directly to parents.

#### **Pupils in the Sixth Form**

- If a Sixth Form pupil does not adhere to the rules around mobile phone use (as detailed above), they should expect to receive an 'on-the-spot' sanction in the form of a Senior School Detention (Friday Evening). Phones will be confiscated, and they may no longer have the privilege of carrying a mobile phone during the school day.

### **Boarders**

- Since the Boarding House is a pupil's home overnight, pupils in all year groups who are boarding for that night, whether they be Full, Weekly or Flexi, will be given the opportunity to use their phones at set times in the evenings and at weekends, under the direction of their Housemaster/mistress, or their representatives.
- Boarders must follow their House guidelines regarding handing their phones in overnight.

### **In the Event of an Emergency**

- Pupils who need to contact parents in an emergency should report to The Foundry/29 Church Street, or speak to their Head of House/Housemaster/mistress or House Matron, who will make a phone available.

### **The Head's Discretion**

- The Head reserves the right to allow phones for selected pupils given individual circumstances, for example a medical condition.

## **Personal Responsibility**

- As with all items, every pupil is responsible for the security of mobile phones that are brought on to the school site, and are expected to take all reasonable care to avoid loss or damage.
- Warminster School accepts no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen in any circumstance whilst on the school premises or on school trips/functions.
- We urge that all mobile devices are password/pin code protected and security marked. Tracker technology should be activated.
- Any use of mobile phones must conform to the Warminster School E-Safety Policy, Acceptable Use Policy and the advice given on internet safety.

## **Staff Expectations**

- Staff should enforce the Mobile Phone Policy in a calm, sensible and appropriate manner.
- Staff must be particularly alert to the dangers of cyberbullying and inappropriate use of mobile phones by pupils and have a responsibility to act in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Staff have a responsibility to act as role models and ensure their use of mobile phones is, where possible, broadly consistent with the expectations of pupils outlined above. Within that broad expectation, it is recognised that, in the performance of their duties, there will be instances where staff must use mobile phones in different ways including, but not limited to, taking registers, or communicating with other staff on fixtures or at events.
- All staff use of mobile phones must conform to the Staff Code of Conduct, the E-Safety Policy, the Social Media Policy and general good manners.