



William Rhodes Primary and Nursery School

Mobile Phones on School Premises

July 2024

This policy aims to clarify that **William Rhodes Primary and Nursery School is a mobile phone – free environment**, to set out the reasons behind this decision and the consequences if the policy is broken.

No phones may be brought to school by any pupil: they must be left at home or with parents during school hours.

Why has this decision been made?



Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones. Today, by the age of 12, 97% of pupils own a mobile phone.

We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils have experienced bullying online. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices.

The role of Parents:

Parents have an important role in supporting the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should be directed to the school office, where staff should be aware of the school's policy on relaying messages and facilitating contact.

Consequences and Sanctions:



If a pupil is found to have a mobile phone in school, it will be confiscated and pupils will lose their free time. Parents will need to collect the phone from the school office.

Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction... Confiscation as a sanction can be an effective deterrent for a specific pupil or a general deterrent for all pupils at the school.

(DFE Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance, 2024)

Searching Pupils:

If staff have reason to believe that a child has a mobile phone in their possession in school, they will alert the Head Teacher who may authorise a search of the pupil.

Headteachers, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as set out in legislation or any item identified in the school rules as an item that may be searched for.

Children who walk home:

Children in Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 and 6 only) may be granted permission to walk home by an adult who holds parental responsibility for them. If parents/ carers do not feel that their child is safe to walk to, or from school without a mobile phone, they should be supervised by an appropriate adult on their journey.

Walking home alone is not a reason for bringing mobile phones into school.

Thank you for abiding by this policy in our school. Together we create a positive, safe and purposeful environment, not only for the children, but also all who work and visit our school.