



Title: The use of mobile phones at SPWT

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Intranet



The use of mobile phones at St Paul's Way Trust School

Rationale

Research and recent announcements from Ofsted suggest that the unstructured use of mobile phones in schools is having a detrimental effect on teaching, learning and standards. It is reported that the prohibition of the use of mobile phones could 'reduce inequality' and 'reduce the education gap' between high, low performing and disadvantaged students.

At St Paul's Way Trust School we want to work closely with our families and students to prevent the unnecessary and unsafe use of mobile phones on the school site and beyond.

We want all of our graduates to be *productive* in whatever they do and want them all to maximise their learning and develop their social (face to face) skills with all members of the school community.

It is widely known that when using mobile phones/headphones whilst walking in a busy public area it can cause accidents. It can also make children vulnerable to mugging. We are a *caring* school and want all of our graduates to be safe whilst moving around the school site. Recently the NSPCC have stated that the use of social media websites have seen an increase in 'student loneliness' and is having an adverse effect on their mental health and wellbeing. Our graduates *care* about their wellbeing.

The use of smart phones can also be linked with anti-social behaviour and invading one's privacy. Our graduates *respect* the learning environment and everyone around them. The prohibition of mobile phones will support our core values.

At St Paul's Way Trust School staff have to deal with a lot of incidents that involve the misuse of mobile phones. Confrontations are often triggered on social media websites which then lead to serious incidents such as verbal and/or physical altercation. This disrupts the learning of many students. On average 42% of the exclusions involved the misuse of mobile phones. This equates to approximately 336 hours of additional work. Staff could easily use this time to support our students and provide better quality of provision.

Our Expectations

We want to adopt a 'no mobile phone' approach at St Paul's Way Trust School. This means that students should not use their mobile phones on the school site. It should be turned off before arriving to school and should be kept in the students' bags. This approach will protect our students from internet misuse, cyberbullying and save on valuable learning time. We want to promote self-regulation by giving our graduates the opportunity to independently decide how they keep their phone out of sight. Sixth Formers will be given the opportunity to use their mobile phones for educational purposes only during study periods and in the sixth form area. All other expectations should be followed as above. At the Primary school students are not to bring a mobile phone into school.

In case of urgent communication, the school will allow our students to contact home via the student welfare room/key stage office. Families can also make contact with their child through the school reception. The school number is: 0207 987 1883

The school will not take responsibility for the loss or damage to any mobile phones or personal belongings.

Research:

- NSPCC
- London School of Economics study on the use of mobile phones

- Chief Ofsted Inspector Amanda Spielman's statement on the use of mobile phones
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-44553705>
- Culture Secretary Matt Hancock's statement on banning mobile phones in schools
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/24/secondary-schools-introducing-strict-new-bans-mobile-phones/>

Protocol for staff if a student is found with a mobile phone

Step 1. An adult will have a quiet conversation with the student if a mobile phone is heard or seen in the classroom or on the school site. Students will be reminded of our core set of values and the rationale listed above (*productive, respectful, caring*)

Step 2. The phone will be confiscated straightaway by the member of staff. It is important that students are given take up time to make the correct choice (if needed). Incidents outside a classroom can be referred to the Year Team Leader (YTL)/Student Achievement Coordinator (SAC). Staff can always seek support from anyone who is on duty.

Step 3. Staff to hand the phone over to the Key Stage Administrator (KSA, Nilima Khatun)

Key Stage Administrator (KSA)

1. KSA will inform parents of the confiscation and arrange an appropriate time for collection.
2. KSA to record a mobile phone confiscation event on SIMs and then place the phone in the safe which will be located in the KS3 office where all confiscated phones will be kept
3. KSA will send a brief email to the YTL/SAC and the safeguarding team to ensure that there are no concerns regarding the confiscation. Repeated incidents will be picked up by the YTL.
4. KSA will complete a brief confiscation slip which will be used to label the phone. The slip will be securely attached to the phone using a rubber band.
5. When KSAs are absent, the General Office Manager will step-in to take this role.

Phone Collection

1. The phone can only be collected by a parent/carer from the KSA
2. KSA must ensure that the parent/carer signs the slip to confirm collection
3. KSA must keep the slip for future reference and record collection on SIMs immediately

Refusal to hand over phone to a member of staff during lesson time (rare incident)

1. Incidents in the classroom will be picked up by the class teacher
2. If the student refuses to co-operate, the class teacher will remind the student of our core values privately (if possible) - continue with the lesson avoiding confrontations
3. The staff member will send a message when appropriate either to the Head Faculty (HoF)/Subject Leader or to an experienced member of staff in the Faculty to ask for support
4. The staff member will then arrange a Faculty detention once the issue has been resolved (phone confiscation)
5. In the event that the student still refuses to co-operate, the SLT line manager for the faculty will be contacted via email or phone to intervene. This should be recorded in SIMs as defiance.
6. If the SLT line manager is not available then contact the SLT member on call according to the rota. This can be done via calling 104 (main reception)
7. If the phone is not handed over, then the HoF /Senior Leader and teacher should meet with the parent and the child to discuss further management actions – consider exclusions. Seek support from Year Team Leader
8. Always use a non-confrontational approach to minimise disruptions

Refusal to hand over phone to a member of staff outside of the classroom (rare incident)

1. Incidents outside the classroom should be dealt with by the adult.

2. If the student refuses to hand over the phone try to get their name and report this to the YTL / SAC. Seek support from any colleague who is on duty. A copy of the students' photographs will be held in the KS3/4 offices to aid identifications.
3. YTL/SAC to contact parents, inform the student of our core values and then follow the confiscation protocol
4. The YTL/SAC will arrange a Year Team Detention once the issue has been resolved (phone confiscation)
5. In the event that the student still refuses to co-operate, the YTL/SAC should seek support from SLT colleagues who are on duty. SLT are on duty during every break, lunchtime and before and after school. This should be recorded in SIMs as defiance.
6. If the phone is not handed over then the SLT line manager/YTL/SAC should meet with the parent to discuss further management actions – consider exclusions
7. Always use a non-confrontational approach to minimise disruptions

Note:

A similar approach will apply if students' use a mobile phone at the Primary school.

The Year Team should provide support to the KSA to make phone calls if needed.

Additional training will be provided for those staff who request it. Staff can seek support or advice from Najet Lakehal (Lead Practitioner/ Behaviour Specialist /Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead) or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

This protocol follows the Department of Education's guidance on 'searching, screening and confiscation' January 2018.