



CREATIVE Education Provision

IWYS Alternative Provision

Mobile Phone Policy (Staff and Students)

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1. Introduction and aims

At IWYS – Alternative Provision 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.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Director(s)/Proprietor is responsible for monitoring the policy each year, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present/during contact time. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number Tel: 07342 214173 as a point of emergency contact.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information.

Please see IWYS – Alternative Provision data protection policy and ICT acceptable use policy.

3.3 Safeguarding

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff must not use their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our staff code of conduct
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office

3.5 Work phones

Some members of staff are provided with a mobile phone by IWYS – Alternative Provision for work purposes.

Only authorised staff are permitted to use IWYS Alternative Provision's phones, and access to the phone must not be provided to anyone without authorisation.

Staff must:

- Only use phone functions for work purposes, including making/receiving calls, sending/receiving emails or other communications, or using the internet
- Ensure that communication or conduct linked to the device is appropriate and professional at all times, in line with our staff code of conduct.

3.6 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

See the IWYS staff disciplinary policy for more information.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

IWYS – Alternative Provision will consider students bringing mobile phones to school for the following circumstances, for instance:

- Travelling to school by themselves
- Young carers who need to be contactable
- At the direction of the teacher for classroom activities/trips and visits/educational activities only
- Students will hand their phones to staff on arrival. Mobile phone will be stored in the IWYS office and returned to students at the end of the school day

Pupils must adhere to the school's [code of conduct/acceptable use agreement for mobile phone use (see appendix 1)].

4.1 Sanctions

A breach of the school's Mobile Phone Policy may be identified as follows:

- Where a student has a clearly visible mobile phone in a situation where it is not permitted and/or
- Where a student has a clearly visible mobile phone attachment, e.g. headphones, in a situation where it is not permitted.
- Where a student is openly using a mobile phone on the school site

Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)

If a phone is confiscated, parents will be contacted and will be asked to collect the phone from IWYS – Alternative Provision.

Staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the [DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#). The DfE guidance allows staff to search a pupil's phone if you have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the provision site during the school day.

This means:

- Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
- Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
- Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils
- Parents, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.
- Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:
 - Use their phone to make contact with other parents
 - Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil
 - Parents or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the IWYS's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents must use the IWYS -Alternative Provision Phone as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

6. Loss, theft or damage

Pupils bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled and are stored securely when not in use.

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Pupils and parents must take notice and be aware of the disclaimer above.

- Signs are up in the entryway and office
- Disclaimers are in the permission forms for bringing a phone to school
- A copy of our policy will be provided and disclaimer to new pupils and parents
- Confiscated phones will be stored in the school office in a locked cabinet].

Lost phones should be returned to IWYS Alternative Provision staff. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

8. Appendix 1: [Code of conduct/acceptable use agreement] for pupils

[Code of conduct/acceptable use agreement]

You must obey the following rules if you bring your mobile phone to IWYS Alternative Provision:

1. You may not use your mobile phone during lessons, unless the teacher specifically allows you to.
2. Phones must be switched off (not just put on 'silent').
3. You may not use your mobile phone in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other pupils.
4. You cannot take photos or recordings (either video or audio) of IWYS staff or other pupils without their consent.
5. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you don't know, and don't share other people's contact details without their consent.
6. Don't share your phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else.
7. Don't use your mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating pupils or staff via:
 - a. Email
 - b. Text/messaging app
 - c. Social media
8. Don't use your phone to send or receive anything that may be criminal. For instance, by 'sexting'.
9. Rules on bullying, harassment, and intimidation apply to how you use your mobile phone even when you aren't in school.
10. Don't use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media. This language is not permitted under the school's behaviour policy.
11. Don't use your phone to view or share pornography or other harmful content.
12. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to switch off, or turn over, a phone. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.
13. Mobile phones are not permitted in any internal or external exam or test environment. If you have a mobile phone, you will be asked to store these appropriately, or turn them over to an exam invigilator, before entering the test room. Bringing a phone into the test room can result in your exam being declared invalid.

9. Appendix 2: Permission form for pupils to use mobile phones during lessons

PUPIL AND LESSON DETAILS

PUPIL AND LESSON DETAILS**Pupil name:****Date:****Class/lesson details:****PURPOSE**

Students are only permitted to use their phones during lessons if it part of the lesson. Students will not be permitted to use their phones for any other reasons.

Pupil agreement

I understand that I am being allowed to use my phone during lesson time as part of an educational or class activity.

I will not use my phone for any other purpose than the one listed above. If my teacher, or any other member of staff, finds that I'm using my phone for any other reason, I understand that it will be confiscated.

I understand that the school's code of conduct/ acceptable use agreement on the use of mobile phones still applies.

Pupil signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY**Authorised by:**

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Date:

11. Appendix 4: Template mobile phone information slip for visitor.

Use of mobile phones in our school

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on site at IWYS Alternative Provision.
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the studio/office.
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

IWYS Alternative Provision accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the IWYS grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.

Use of mobile phones at IWYS Alternative Provision

- Please keep your mobile phone on silent/vibrate while on the school grounds
- Please do not use phones where pupils are present. If you must use your phone, you may go to the studio/office
- Do not take photos or recordings of pupils (unless it is your own child), or staff
- Do not use your phone in lessons, or when working with pupils

The school accepts no responsibility for phones that are lost, damaged or stolen while you are on the school grounds.

A full copy of our mobile phone policy is available from the school office.
