



SCHS Mobile Phone and Devices Policy (Pupils)

September 2024

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Deputy Head (Pastoral)	
Last review by	A Smith	Review date	Sept 2024
Date of next review		September 2025	

Aims

This policy is for the protection and educational welfare of all children in the senior school.

Streatham and Clapham remains committed to staff and students embracing the use of technology to support teaching and learning across the school. It is important to ensure that appropriate use supports the core values of the school and does not undermine the importance of developing strong interpersonal communication. These guidelines, along with the ICT acceptable use agreement, and the GDST Online Safety Policy, aim to promote **safe, respectful** and **responsible** use of mobile devices to the benefit of the whole SCHS community.

Definitions

Devices - Laptops and tablets provided to staff and students for their work and learning, and laptops brought to school under our Bring Your Own Device programme (BYOD)

Phones - mobile phones of any kind, but particularly smartphones or tablet devices used for recreation and out of school activities.

BYOD Devices

Students in Year 7-13 are required to bring a device into school that will be able to access the cloud computing platforms used in the GDST as a minimum. Pupils must be aware that their devices will be treated like any other learning resource and teachers will have the right to view work and websites being accessed. The GDST has instigated the Guest Access protocol which allows any internet enabled device with wifi capability to use the enterprise wireless points in school, hence a BYOD (bring your own device) is in place. This allows for monitored access to the internet via individual login and provides the same, or enhanced, level of filtering as is provided on the network. The GDST Filtering and monitoring Policy can be referred to for more detailed information.

Streatham and Clapham have restricted the use of Facebook, Tik Tok, Snapchat and Instagram during school hours through our GDST network.



Access to the internet in school must be in line with online safety and GDST Acceptable Use Agreements. If students use sites which break these policies, devices may be removed during school hours and/or examined for evidence. Teachers will monitor pupil use of devices in lessons and at lunch/break times and breaches of the rules on messaging will be followed up with the appropriate sanctions processes, including possible confiscation of phones. In accordance with statutory guidance for dealing with electronic devices, the school reserves the right to confiscate or examine a device where there is a good reason to suspect the data or file on the device in question has been, or could be, used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or break the school rules

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62d1643e8fa8f50bfbefa55c/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

Photos and videos should only be taken with staff permission.

We encourage pupils not to use devices during break and lunchtime and to instead enjoy social time and co-curricular activities.

Headphones

Students should not generally use headphones or earbuds for listening to music during lessons, unless this is required by the teacher as an integral part of the lesson. Nor should pupils wear headphones when moving around the school building or in the dining room. There is no evidence that listening to music improves concentration levels, in fact, the opposite is more likely to be true.



Use of personal mobile phones by Pupils

Schools should be a haven for pupils where the environment is focused on learning and development. Excessive exposure to social media sites has been shown to have negative effects on young people's wellbeing and phone use is inextricably linked to this. In addition, excessive use of mobile phones can inhibit opportunities to socialise face to face and generate stress for young people. However, the school recognises that parents feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication home. We support this approach wholeheartedly. As an educational establishment, we must also be aware of the negative impact that excessive mobile phone usage can have on the learning and social interactions of young people. There have been many reports in the media of research which have proven that these detrimental effects exist and of schools where restrictions on mobile phone use have seen an improvement in academic achievement. We wish to strike a balance between the convenience of having a mobile phone and patterns of use which may impede the academic progress of a pupil or reduce the opportunities which they choose to take advantage of.

Mobile phone policy for pupils in Year 7

- Year 7 pupils must not have a smartphone (phones with internet) in school. Unless exceptional circumstances to be agreed with the Deputy Head Pastoral
- Year 7 are permitted to bring in a 'brick' phone (non-smartphone) so parents can communicate with their children before/after school.
- Any non-smartphones should still be locked in a mobile phone locker during the school day (8.25am-3.55pm)
- Parents are asked not to text or call their children on mobiles during the school day. If they need to relay a message to their children, they should contact the school reception, and that message will be passed on.
- This will continue for year 7 pupils entering year 8 in the academic year of 2025
- Spot checks of lockers are done by staff to ensure phones are being kept in lockers.

Mobile Phone policy for Year 8-10

- Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to always ensure their personal safety.
- Pupils must not use their mobile device anywhere in school during the school day, except under the specific direction of a member of staff.
- Any mobile phone should still be locked in a mobile phone locker during the school day (8.25am-3.55pm)
- Please note that phones are not allowed to be removed from lockers at break time for contactless payment. If your child wants to purchase an item from tuck they should have a debit card that can be used.



- Parents are asked not to text or call their children on mobiles during the school day. If they need to relay a message to their children, they should contact the school reception, and that message will be passed on.
- Spot checks of lockers are done by staff to ensure phones are being kept in lockers.

Mobile Phone policy for Year 11

- Pupils are allowed to keep their mobile on their person
- Pupils must not use their mobile device anywhere in school during the school day, except under the specific direction of a member of staff.
- Phones must not be seen or heard.
- Parents are asked not to text or call their children on mobiles during the school day. If they need to relay a message to their children, they should contact the school reception, and that message will be passed on.

Mobile Phone policy for Year 12-13

For Sixth Form pupils, we expect them to understand that the permitted use of mobile phones including headphones is a privilege accompanied by the expectation of responsible use.

- Pupils are allowed to keep their mobile on their person
- Pupils must not use their mobile device in lessons except under the specific direction of a member of staff.
- Phones must not be seen or heard in lessons.

Sanctions

If a pupil is seen using their own phone during the school day or if it rings in a lesson, the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day. The phone will be taken to School Reception and handed in for safekeeping to be returned at 3:55pm. A lunchtime pastoral detention will be set.

If a pupil has their phone taken from them a second time in one term. They will receive an hour pastoral detention after school.

If a pupil has their phone taken from them more than three times in one term, parents will be asked to collect it.



Persistent infringements of this policy might also result in a pupil being asked to hand in their phone at the start of every school day or them being banned from bringing a phone to school entirely. This decision would be made by the relevant Head of Year in consultation with the Deputy Head Pastoral.

Bullying and Online Safety Issues

Devices can immediately be confiscated if there is evidence or good reason to suspect that pornographic images are held on them. In this case, police advice must also be sought. Similarly, devices can immediately be confiscated if there is evidence or good reason to suspect that online bullying has taken place.

Online Education

Pupils are taught about appropriate use of mobile devices and social networks in PSHE lessons and through our wider pastoral programme. We take cyber-bullying and misuse of devices very seriously and pupils can expect a sanction under our Anti-Bullying and Rewards and Sanctions Policies for sending inappropriate or unkind messages, misusing or sharing without permission other people's data (including photographs/videos). Pupils also receive information from the local Police force about the legal consequences of online bullying and harassment.

Social Media App Reminder

Parents should be aware of the age restrictions attached to social media applications, such as Snapchat, Instagram, Tiktok and the like. The age restriction for most social media apps is 12 or 13 years of age. It is worth noting that the age restriction for Whatsapp users is 16 years of age. Whilst we cannot prevent students from using social media apps, we would encourage parents to discuss these age restrictions with their children, so that they fully understand the dangers associated with them. This is particularly pertinent for apps where image or video sharing is the main purpose

As a school we recommend no student under 13 has a smartphone. We have also published our recommendations around use which included:

- No phone or device use later than 20:30 Sunday-Thursday for Year 7-8
- No longer than 2 hours each day from Friday-Sun for Year 7-8
- No phones/devices in bedrooms overnight for Year 7-10