



Milldown  
CE Academy

*Inspire, Believe, Achieve*

# **Portable Electronic Communication Devices (Mobile Phone) policy**

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## 1 Purpose

Milldown Academy is a smartphone free school. We do not encourage smartphones in school and recommend 'basic' phones, if needed, for children in Year 5 and 6 walking to and from school.

Once on the school site, children are expected to turn their phone off and hand it to a member of staff for safekeeping.

The policy specifies procedures that provides teachers, support staff, students, parents and carers clear expectations and instructions for mobile phones during school hours.

Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the expectations before students are given permission by their parents or carers to bring mobile phones to the school.

The Mobile Phones Policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

The procedure covers all students in Year 5 and 6 who are allowed to walk to school independently.

## 2 Rationale

Milldown recognises that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting across Blandford to the school.

Milldown also recognises the uses made of modern smartphones by young people; many of which immerse them in academic and social learning.

It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently travelling to or from school. Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remain the appropriate point of contact and can ensure students can be reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

### 3 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to the school to abide by the expectations outlined in this document.

The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers.

Parents/carers should always make themselves aware if their child takes a mobile phone to the school.

Parents/carers must recognise the high monetary value and attractiveness of mobile phones and other technology. In allowing their children to bring items of such value into the school and whilst the school will do everything to mitigate against loss, theft of damage, it is the parents/carers that must carry the risk were there to be such an unfortunate occurrence.

Other electronic devices, such as smart watches and MP3 players etc are not allowed in school.

### 4 Acceptable Uses

Mobile phones and ear phones/buds must be switched off once on site and **kept in each classes phone box** throughout the school day.

### 5 Unacceptable Uses

Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos, videos, listen to music via headphones or use any other application during the school day and other educational activities.

Devices should not be seen and may be confiscated even if being used.

Mobile phones must not disrupt classroom lessons with ringtones, music or beeping.

Students who become ill during the day must not use their mobile phones to contact parents/carers, they must use the established procedure via the office to seek permission to be collected from school if too ill to remain at the school on a particular day. Only the office staff or headteacher can give permission for a sick child to be collected from the school.

Students are not allowed to use other students' phones or equipment.

Students must not use their mobile phones to bully and threaten other students. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour and it will be dealt with very seriously by the school.

Students must not use their mobile phones to pass on/upload message or to take videos or pictures of acts to slander, bully, denigrate or humiliate a student. This also includes using mobile phones to photograph or film any student. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

## **6 Theft, Damage and Safety**

Students should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names/or other means of identification such as those provided by the Community Police team.

Students who bring a mobile phone to the school should leave it in their bag before they arrive. To reduce the risk of theft, students who carry mobile phones to and from school are advised to keep them well concealed and not 'advertise' they have them.

Mobile phones that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the office.

Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the student's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the receipt of insulting, threatening or unpleasant voice, text and picture messages.

It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords should not be shared.

Except where negligence can be proven in a court of law, the school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

Except where negligence can be proven in a court of law, the school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from the school.

Lost and stolen mobile phones in the U.K. can be blocked across all networks making them virtually worthless because they cannot be used.

## 7 Inappropriate Conduct

Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images (for more information please see <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/briefings/sexting-advice-professionals>) , and phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face appropriate sanctions according to the school behaviour policy.

## 8 Sanctions

If the student is using the mobile phone inappropriately, the phone will be confiscated for the rest of the school day. Confiscated mobile phones will be placed in a named envelope and stored for the duration of the confiscation. On this point, there will be **no negotiation** by students or parents. Students will be allowed to pick up their mobile phone from the office after 3:15pm or later for repeat offenders.

If the student repeats the inappropriate use of their mobile phone in school within the academic year each subsequent confiscation will be for an increased period of time.

Failure to heed the rules set out in this policy, for example when a phone has been used to harass or bully another student, including the use of social networking sites such as TikTok or WhatsApp, may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation and be subject to further sanctions as laid out in the Behaviour for Learning Policy. In such cases, the parent or carer would be notified immediately.

## 9 Monitoring

All members of staff will monitor the use of mobile phones and digital music players in accordance with this procedure.

## 10 Evaluation

The Headteacher and school governors will review the situation on a regular basis to ensure that the procedure is appropriate and workable.