

Mobile Phone & Smart Watch Policy

2021/22



MEDDEN
SCHOOL

**ASPIRATION
EXCELLENCE
ACHIEVE**



Introduction

Mobile phones and smart watches are part of modern life and the majority of students own a mobile phone with access to the internet. We understand that for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone in order to contact parents/carers after school/before school; however, mobile phones can lead to several problems in school such as bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media that leads to safeguarding issues. In addition, at Meden, we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally, by talking to each other and developing real connections at break and lunchtime.

To support this, at Meden School, the use of mobile phones during school hours is completely forbidden. Students found using their mobile phone during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Purpose

1. To clarify the school position on mobile phones and smart watches.
2. To ensure that staff, students and parents are fully conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
3. To support our behaviour management policy which is in place to support the safety, positive behaviour and learning of all our students.
4. To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised.

Guidelines and Procedure

1. Mobile phones must remain out of sight and switched off during school hours. **This includes break and lunchtimes.** Phones must not be seen or heard.
2. Any student seen using their mobile phone during school hours, **including break and lunchtimes**, will have their phone confiscated and a 25-minute afterschool detention will be issued. This is for any reason. Refusal to hand over the mobile phone will result in internal exclusion.
3. Confiscated phones must be taken to student services where the phone will be stored, and the name of the student will be recorded. In the first instance, the phone can be collected by the student at the end of the school day from our student services team.
4. Any further breaches of the policy by the same student will require parents or carers to collect the mobile phone from school. Further sanctions will be applied which are proportionate to the level of disruption caused.
5. We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. We ask parents and carers to inform us of this as soon as possible and students will be allowed to use the school phone to speak to someone at home. The mobile phone ban will remain in place.
6. When issues with mobile phones exist that involve serious misuse of the phone such as transmitting images or cyber bullying, parents will be brought into school and the Malicious Communications Act will be explained to them. This states that parents are responsible for the phone and any issues resulting from the phone when it is used by a 'minor'.
7. Smart watches are not allowed on school site and will be treated like mobile phones.



Reasons for Mobile Phone & smart watch confiscation:

- A student's phone or smart watch is seen or heard on the school site.
- A student is found to be carrying more than one mobile phone (in this case, all of the phones are confiscated).
- A student's phone is found to be turned on while on the school site. Phones MUST be switched off.
- A student has been involved in inappropriate social media activity.

Mobile Phone & Smart Watch confiscation Time period:

- 1st Strike: If a student's phone/smart watch is confiscated for one of the above reasons, the confiscated phones/smart watches will be returned to them at the end school day. A 25-minute detention will be issued.
- 2nd Strike: If an item is confiscated more than once, it will not be returned until a parent picks it up. A double detention of 50 minutes will be issued, and spot checks will be undertaken during a week to see if the student has their phone switched off.
- If a student deliberately takes out their phone, for example, in order to attempt to take a photo or a video on the school site, the phone will not be returned until their parent comes into school for a meeting. They are also likely to receive time in internal isolation.
- Further consequences: If they refuse to hand it over or if they pretend it was not theirs, the item is confiscated until their parent comes into school. They are also likely to receive time in internal isolation.