

Mobile Phones in School



FREDERICK GENT SCHOOL

Ban on the use of Mobile Phones in school.

- From Monday 4th July the use of Mobile Phones will be prohibited in school for all students.

Rationale – Why are we taking this step?

When I arrived at FGS in January 2019 I was asked by parents about whether I would ban phones. My response was that I would keep the situation under review and do what was right for the pupils.

It has become clear that mobile phones have become problematic and that is the reason for the ban.

Problematic because of;

- **Mental Health concerns** – A safe space from the pressures of social media.
- **Social isolation** - Increase in number of pupils showing social isolation linked to use of mobile phones
- **Inequality** - Increasing issue of have and have nots made very evident through mobile phones and related smart wear.
- **Inappropriate use of images and footage** – Images taken in school being taken and shared without permission with external parties, which results in individuals and the school being brought into disrepute or safeguarding issues.
- **Subversion of school processes** - Calls home when 2 minutes later the situation has been resolved in school.

Mobile Phone Ban

- Phones will be confiscated if used, heard or seen at school on school site at any point, **including before school, social times** and **between lessons**.
- 1st, 2nd Offence – Confiscated and returned at the end of the day and parents informed.
- 3rd Offence – Confiscated and parents will be required to collect the phone from school.

FAQs Mobile Phones

Q. Are mobile phones banned on school site for all students?

A. Yes from Monday 4th July 2022



Q. Does this also include social times e.g. break and lunch?

A. Yes – on school site



Q. Can my child use their phone in the toilet or restaurant areas?

A. No– not on school site



Q. Does this include smart watches?

A. Yes any portable device from Monday 4th July 2022

including but not limited to; mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic music or games devices (including headphones)

Any device which is capable of communicating with others in any way (including but not limited too; calls, texts, social media or emails) are not permitted.

Q. Why are they being banned?

Mental Health concerns – A safe space from the pressures of social media.

Social isolation - Increase in number of pupils showing social isolation linked to use of mobile phones

Inequality - Increasing issue of have and have nots made very evident through mobile phones and related smart wear.

Inappropriate use of images and footage – Images taken in school being taken and shared without permission with external parties, which results in individuals and the school being brought into disrepute or safeguarding issues.

Subversion of school processes - Calls home when 2 minutes later the situation has been resolved in school.

TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.

Q. What are the safeguarding issues?

A. Some examples – taking images without permission and sharing them, cyber bullying, sharing personal information, contacting inappropriate sites.

Q. Under what circumstances will they be confiscated?

A. If the phone is, found to have been used, is seen or heard in any part of the school.

Q. Can students still bring their phone to school but not use it?

A. The school advises that they don't bring them. If they do it is at their own risk. Also if they do they should be securely hidden away most obviously within a safe compartment within their school bag.

Q. What if I need my child urgently?

A. Parents can ring the school reception and a message will be passed on to your child.

Q. What if my child needs to contact home?

A. They can go to their pastoral team or the school reception.

Q. Will it be confiscated if it is in my child's pocket?

A. Yes – if the phone is **seen, used or heard on school grounds it will be confiscated. It is their responsibility to ensure that this does not happen.**

Q. Even if they are not using it?

A. Yes – if the phone is seen or heard in school grounds it will be confiscated. Regardless if they are seen using it or not.

It is their responsibility to ensure this does not happen.

Q. Will they get a warning first?

A. No – if the phone is **used, seen or heard it will be confiscated. It is their responsibility to avoid this.**

**Q. When will they
get it back?**

**A. If it is the first/
second time,
then at the end
of the day from
the Focus room
at 3pm.**

Q. If they do it again?

**3rd offence -
Contact will be
made with home
and someone will
be asked to come
in to collect the
phone from main
school reception
between 3.00-
4.30pm**

Q. Will my child get a sanction if their phone is confiscated?

A. Yes - Students will be expected to stay for a 30 minute correction that day , 3pm – 3.30pm.

**Q. Can schools
confiscate
phones?**

**A. Yes schools are
allowed to
confiscate items
that ‘the schools
considers harmful
or detrimental to
school discipline
and safety’. DfE**

Q. Can my child use their phone to photograph homework or to do classwork?

- A. No – the teacher will place homework on Show My Homework/ Satchel One so they can access it at home.**
- B. From September - they will have a student planner to write down homework in class.**

Q. Do other schools allow phones?

A. No – the vast majority have the same policy.

**Q. Are they
banned for staff?**

**A. During school
hours staff will
only use
phones for
school
purposes e.g.
registers or
emails.**

Q. Can they be used on school trips?

A. Yes – but only with staff permission to do so.

**Q. Can my child
use them on none
uniform days e.g.
sports day?**

**A. No –not on
school site.**

THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES IS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL



LEARNING AND EDUCATION COME FIRST

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT PHONES / HEADPHONES WILL BE CONFISCATED IMMEDIATELY IF SEEN/ HEARD OR USED