



Ludlow Church of England School
Use of Mobile Phones by students on school site

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Context

The presence and use of mobile phones in schools continues to be a topic of debate within the media. The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, supports a total ban on mobile devices, and Gavin Williamson, when Secretary of State for Education, said that he wanted to make school sites "mobile-free". Indeed, a You Gov poll, in July 2021, found that 77% of those surveyed supported a total ban. However, we feel that many of those surveyed, or who support a total ban, are not linked to schools where many children are transported by bus, or who face a significant walk to and from school. We are aware of the prevailing research that proposes that limiting student attention to mobile phones in school:

- Ensures better progress with learning without the distraction of mobile phones
- Reduces the negative impact of social media use of mental health and wellbeing
- Reduces the negative impact of excessive screen time on mental health and wellbeing
- Reduces unpleasant behaviour – cyberbullying and sexting, at its most extreme
- Prevents time being wasted over phone-related issues – peer disputes, lost phones, damaged phones
- Protects students' safety and privacy – there are laws around taking and sharing images (GDPR)

Our statement of intent

Although we recognise the difficulties that are associated with mobile phones, at Ludlow CE School, we have always felt a position of compromise was most appropriate. Therefore, though some schools nationally, and locally, have a total ban, we continue to maintain our current rules, but also ensure that they are closely followed. We are committed to ensuring that those rules are followed and that we are consistent in our approach to breaches of the rules.

Rules around the use of mobile phones

Mobile phones must be switched off, and be in school bags, between the following times:

8.50am - 11.25

11.40 - 12.45

1.20 - 3.25 (3.20 for Years 10 and 11)

In effect, once school has started, students should only access their phones at morning break and lunchtime; as ever, Reception is available for emergency contact to, or from, a student. These rules also apply to earphones, of course.

If we see a student’s phone at any other time, it will be confiscated until the end of the day. Persistent breaches of the rules (such as a phone being confiscated on three occasions) requires the student to hand their phone into Reception at the start of the day, and home will be contacted; this is also the case if there is a serious breach of our mobile phone policy, such as cyberbullying, sexting, taking pictures or videos, or a refusal to hand over a phone when asked to do so.

With the support of all in the school community, we will be able to ensure the correct use of mobile phones; we want our students to maximise their learning time, be safe, be positive, but still have access to their phones so that they can learn to use devices appropriately at the right time.

Appendix: Information for students

Use of Mobile Phones on School Site

You can use your mobile phones, safely, at break time and lunch time. At **ALL** other times your phone must be switched off **and in your bag**.

Safe usage – this means **no pictures or videos at any time**, unless directed by a teacher, and of course, any cyberbullying is a breach of the rules.

The following rules also apply to earphones and other listening/communication devices.

Time	Action
8.50	Switch your phone off and store in your bag
8.50 – 11.25	Phone remain unused in your bag
11.25 -11.40	Phone available for safe usage
11.40	Switch your phone off and store in your bag
11.40 -12.45	Phone remains unused in your bag
12.45 - 1.20	Phone available for safe usage
1.20	Switch your phone off and store in your bag
1.20 – 3.20 (KS4)/3.25 (KS3)	Phone remains unused in your bag
3.20 (KS4)/3.25 (KS3)	Phone available for safe usage

The Consequences of making the wrong decision

Wrong Decision	Consequence
Phone seen between 8.50 and 11.25	Confiscated, and loss of the privilege, until end of the day (collect from LH)
Phone seen between 11.40 and 12.45	Confiscated, and loss of the privilege, until end of the day (collect from LH)
Phone seen between 1.20 and end of Period 5	Confiscated, and loss of the privilege, until end of the day (collect from LH)
Unsafe usage	Confiscated, and loss of the privilege, until end of the day (collect from LH) and contact home
3 breaches of the rules	Home is contacted; two-week hand-in period and After-School Detention/ Isolation
Refusal to hand over a device	Home is contacted; two-week hand-in period and After-School Detention/ Isolation/Suspension