



مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FESTIVAL CITY

 **Al-Futtaim** Education Foundation

Mobile Phone Use Policy (Secondary School)

Date	25 August 2025
Review Date	25 August 2026
Owner	Director
Author	Barry Lomas
Version	Version 1
Policy Type	Pastoral
Circulation	External
Date Authorised	25 August 2025
Authorised By	Director

Why We Are a Phone Free School

At Deira International School, we are proud to be a phone free learning environment during the school day. This approach reflects our safeguarding responsibilities, our commitment to student wellbeing and our dedication to creating a calm, focused and inclusive culture where every learner can thrive.

We strongly believe in the power of technology when it is used purposefully and in support of learning. Digital tools, when introduced in a structured and intentional way, can enhance engagement, deepen understanding and open up new possibilities for collaboration and creativity. At DIS, we feel this can be best achieved through the use of student laptops and school approved software, rather than mobile phones, which are often a source of distraction and unregulated use.

Extensive global research has shown that limiting phone use during the school day leads to improved academic focus, stronger student engagement and enhanced social development. Evidence also highlights that excessive mobile phone use negatively impacts memory, attention and emotional wellbeing, particularly among adolescents. Students who are free from digital distraction are more likely to participate fully in lessons, collaborate effectively with peers, and make sustained academic progress.

Promoting Responsibility, Not Prohibition

Rather than banning mobile phones from the school site entirely, we believe in giving students a sense of ownership and responsibility. Our approach encourages them to make the right choices about when and how devices should be used. By trusting students to follow clear expectations and routines, we are supporting their development as responsible, respectful, and digitally aware young people.

This policy is not about restriction, it is about creating the best possible conditions for learning and personal growth. By removing the distraction of mobile phones during the day, we are giving students the space to think deeply, connect authentically and flourish both academically and socially.

1. Purpose and Principles

At DIS, our phone free policy reflects our commitment to our core values: Respect, Excellence, Collaboration and Integrity. This policy is in place to:

- Maximise learning time and academic focus by removing digital distractions.
- Promote positive learning behaviours such as attentiveness, communication and collaboration.
- Support student wellbeing by promoting face to face interaction and screen breaks. Students will build stronger communication skills, empathy and emotional intelligence.
- To reinforce respect and safety by creating a safe, calm and respectful school environment where every student can thrive.

Being phone free enables students to remain fully present in their learning and school experience.

2. Further Education: Supporting Responsible Digital Citizens

At DIS, we recognise that mobile phone use and digital literacy are part of modern life. Alongside our phone policy, we are committed to educating students on how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly. Throughout the year, we will:

- Deliver assemblies and tutor time sessions focused on digital responsibility, online safety and social media awareness.
- Provide learning activities on topics such as:
 - Managing screen time
 - Online reputation and digital footprints
 - Cyberbullying and respectful online communication
 - Understanding privacy and consent
 - Social Media
- Embed digital citizenship education into our pastoral curriculum.
- Invite guest speakers and run special awareness campaigns during Safer Internet Week and other relevant times.
- Share regular resources and guidance with students and parents to support healthy tech habits at home and at school.
- Encourage open conversations between staff, students and families about the role of technology in students' lives.

2. Phone Use Expectations

- Students should **switch off their phones and place them in their bags** before the school day begins.
- Phones must stay switched off and placed in bags, including during break and lunch times.
- If a student needs to contact home during the day, they must do so via the school office or student reception and not through their personal device.
- Likewise, we kindly ask parents not to call or message their child during the school day. Please contact the school office for any urgent communication.
- Students are not permitted to use their phones to check Go4Schools or complete school tasks unless a teacher has given clear permission.
- Headphones and earbuds should also remain out of sight, unless a teacher has allowed them for a specific learning activity.

3. Permitted Use

Phones may only be used:

- When directed by a teacher for specific educational purposes.
- For contactless payment at food outlets during break and lunch.

4. Sanctions for Non Compliance

A clear escalation process will be followed for any breach of the phone policy:

Stage	Consequence	Details
1	First Incident - Phone confiscated and logged on Go4Schools	Phone returned at the end of the day. Student reminded of the policy.
2	Second Incident - Phone confiscated and warning letter issued to parents	Formal letter sent home. Phone returned at the end of the day.
3	Third Incident - Phone confiscated, parent informed and parent meeting scheduled with YLC, second warning letter issued and internal suspension	Student not allowed to bring their phone to school for one week. If phone is confiscated, it will be returned to parents NOT the student.
4	Phone confiscated, parent meeting with Assistant Headteacher, final warning letter issued and external suspension	Student not allowed to bring their phone to school for the remainder of the term. If phone is confiscated, it will be returned to parents NOT the student.
5	Phone confiscated, parent meeting with Secondary Headteacher and permanent phone ban	Student will not be allowed to bring a phone to school again. Treated as persistent defiance. If phone is confiscated, it will be returned to parents NOT the student.

*****All incidents will be recorded on Go4Schools and tracked by the pastoral and leadership teams.**

5. Serious Breach

If a student uses their phone in a manner that constitutes a serious breach of safeguarding (e.g., recording or photographing another student without consent, sharing harmful or inappropriate content, or using the phone to bully or intimidate others), this will result in an immediate external suspension and a permanent phone ban. The incident will be escalated to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and may involve KHDA and other external agencies if necessary.

6. Parent and Student Communication

- All student-parent communication during the school day must go through the school office.
- Students are not permitted to call, message, or receive calls from parents directly during school hours.
- Parents are kindly asked to follow this procedure to support consistency and safety.

7. Responsibility and Liability

- Students and families are responsible for the safe keeping of mobile phones brought to school.
- The school is not liable for loss, theft, or damage of any personal devices.