



PUPIL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Policy statement

Mobiles phones have recently become a common possession and are increasingly complex and sophisticated. Many people view them as an essential of modern life.

There are, however, many issues that relate to mobile phone use, or indeed possession, in school:

- Disturbance of lessons and loss of concentration in class.
- Worry at responsibility for an expensive item.
- Potential for theft.
- Potential bullying situations.
- Unwanted and uncontrolled photographs and video footage.
- Now that mobile phones can connect to the internet, all the hazards involving online issues such as bullying, grooming, and personal security.
- Microwave radiation.
- Adults talking on the phone and not giving their full attention to the children in their care.
- Personal conversations being overheard.

We also accept that:

- Parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. (However, we are also aware that mobile phone theft is becoming increasingly common.)
- There is increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or walking to school.
- Providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently after or before school.

Procedure

- Except in emergency situations, no mobile phones are to be used by children on the school premises. This includes the front playground at the end of school.
- Children must keep their phones turned off, in their bags, and out of sight.
- Any phone found during school time will be confiscated and held in the office available for collection at the end of the school day. If this happens more than once a meeting will be set up with parents.
- Phones will be returned to the pupils and will not be held overnight.

Still photographs or video must only be taken with a school camera. All images and the processing of images must follow the school requirements detailed in the school's media policy.

It is the expectation that pupils will not take mobile phones on school trips. In exceptional circumstances and with agreement of Education Mandate and the DSL, Class 8 pupils may be allowed to take still and video images using their phones while on their European trip. *Note: image content would still need to follow guidelines set out in the Digital Image Policy*

Students and their parents or carers must read and understand this policy.

York Steiner School takes no responsibility for loss or damage to any pupil's mobile phone or electronic device.

Approval & Review

Policy reviewed by the Board of Trustees January 2019

Policy review date: January 2020

[This policy should be read in conjunction with all other safeguarding policies as they all work together to safeguard the child, staff and school. These policies collectively support Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018](#)