

Mobile Phone Policy (Student)

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER:

What does the Lord ask of you?

To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6vs.8

Contents

Statement of Intent

1. Legal Framework
2. Mobile Phone Procedure
3. Confiscation
4. Sanctions
5. Emergencies
6. Monitoring and Review

Appendix 1: Electronic Devices

Statement of Intent

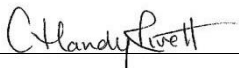
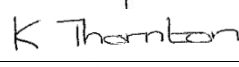

In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do. All members of the school community are committed to upholding the St Michael's Church of England Christian values:

- to show love, care, and kindness to all in our community
- to value what we have and to share with others
- to enable everyone to achieve their full potential

This policy has been created with safeguarding and behaviour at its heart. It has been designed to ensure students are not exposed to social media-related harmful material during the school day, in order to support a successful learning environment.

St Michael's Church of England High School is committed to promoting equality and safety and ensuring that no student is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances, or social and cultural background.

Signed by:

 _____	Headteacher	Date: <u>21/03/2024</u>
 _____	Co-Chair of Governors	Date: <u>21/03/2024</u>
 _____	Co-Chair of Governors	Date: <u>21/03/2024</u>

Date adopted:	6 th July 2023
Review date:	21 st March 2024
Review	March 2026

1. Legal Framework

1.1 This policy will have consideration for the following legislation and guidance:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- DfE, 2022, 'Keeping children safe in education'
- Behaviour and Discipline in Schools – January 2016
- DfE, 2024, "Mobile phones in schools: Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day"

1.2 This policy operates in conjunction with our other policies:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Student Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

2. Mobile Phone Rationale

2.1 As of September 2023, St Michael's Church of England High School is a mobile-free zone. The school expects the support of parents in this matter, as there are many positive effects of banning mobile phones from the school site:

- **Safeguarding**
Updated guidance with regards to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' states that schools are responsible for monitoring the content that students are accessing online during the school day. This extends to content being accessed via mobile phones and not just school computers. The practical implications of ensuring that students are accessing appropriate content on mobile phones is clear to see. As a school, we cannot ensure that all students are accessing appropriate content and cannot prevent them from distributing inappropriate content either. As a result of this, mobile phones greatly increase the risk of child-on-child abuse, cyberbullying, and data protection issues. Studies have shown a positive correlation between banning phones and reducing instances of bullying.
- **Behaviour**
Mobile phones are being misused, with students taking them out in lessons, sending inappropriate social media messages and arranging to meet during lesson time. Increasingly, teachers are spending a disproportionate amount of time 'policing' the use of mobile phones and investigating the results of their misuse. This can in turn lead to secondary behaviour when students refuse to have phones confiscated, leading to further sanctions. The benefit of banning mobile phones from school is to reconnect students with learning.
- **Wellbeing**
The average screen time for a young person is 8 hours 39 minutes per day. Too much screen time can have significant detrimental effects on young people's wellbeing such as increased anxiety, poor sleep patterns, poor self-esteem, and mood swings. The recommended screen time is 2 hours per day and research suggests there is a dose-response relationship, meaning the less time spent in front of a screen, the smaller the detrimental effect will be.
- **Socialisation**
Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers. Socialisation activities have a positive impact on wellbeing and our mobile phone policy

can help children and young people develop these habits, which will in turn help them thrive outside of school.

- **Outcomes for learners**

Studies have shown a positive correlation between banning phones and improving outcomes. A London School of Economics Study found test scores of students increased by 6.4% in a number of UK schools that introduced a mobile phone ban. This is equivalent to adding five days to the school year or an additional hour a week.

3. Mobile Phone Procedure

- 3.1 If a parent allows their child to bring a mobile phone on site, it will be collected upon their arrival, in accordance with **Section 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006**. This states that schools are permitted to confiscate pupils' property, including mobile phones. The school takes the utmost care with confiscated property, and the law clearly states that, in the unlikely event that a mobile phone, or any other electronic device, is lost, stolen or damaged while in a school's possession, the school is not liable.
- 3.2 Mobile phones will be collected during morning registration and handed back to students at the end of the school day. If a student fails to have their phone collected during morning registration, sanctions will be imposed.
- 3.3 The school accepts no responsibility for any loss, theft or damage of a mobile phone, or any other electronic device, as they are considered a banned item, under Section 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 3.4 Refer to Appendix I for a list of electronic devices banned on the school site.

4. Sanctions

- 4.1 If a student has not handed in their mobile phone during form time registration, it will be confiscated immediately and taken to reception.
- 4.2 Upon discovering a mobile phone, the following sanctions will apply:
 - 1st Offence – Parents will have to collect the phone from reception (the student will have a 90-minute detention after school)
 - 2nd Offence – Parents will have to collect the phone after having a meeting with the head of year (the student will have 1 day in Refocus)
 - 3rd Offence – Parents will have to collect the phone after having a meeting with a member of the leadership team (the student will have 1-day external isolation)
 - 4th Offence – 1 day suspension for the student. The student has lost the opportunity to have their phone collected, and they will not be permitted to bring it on-site for the remainder of the term.
- 4.2 If a student refuses to have their phone confiscated, they will receive a suspension and will not be permitted to bring their mobile phone onto site for the remainder of the school year.
- 4.3 As the DfE has introduced statutory guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones, St Michael's expects the full support of parents in implementing the mobile phone ban due to the positive impacts such a ban brings about, as outlined in section 2.

5. Emergencies

- 5.1 If a student needs to contact his/her parents/carers, they will be allowed to use a school phone during break and lunchtime.
- 5.2 If parents/carers need to contact students urgently, they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1 The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact on children's education, behaviour, and welfare. This policy will be kept under regular review by the Headteacher.
- 6.2 The next scheduled review date for this policy is March 2026.

Appendix I: Electronic Devices

Electronic devices include:

- Mobile phone
- AirPods, airbuds, earphones, and headset
- Portable speaker
- MP3 player
- Smart watch
- Tablet
- Handheld gaming set
- VR headset