



BIRCHENSALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mobile phone and wearable technology policy

Date adopted by Governors: **January 2024**

Date of next review: **January 2025**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Evans', is positioned above a dotted line.

Mr. A Evans – Chair of Governors

1. Introduction and aims

At Birchensale Middle School we recognise that mobile phones and wearable technology are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community.

Our policy aims to:

- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

For the purposes of this policy the term mobile phone relates to all personal and wearable technology.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy every year, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

2.2 Governors

Governors are responsible for agreeing this policy.

3. Use of mobile phones by pupils

Students should not bring mobile phones to school. Where a parent/career believes it essential for the safety of their child then the following applies:

- Mobile phones are to be switched off and in a student's bag before arriving on the school grounds.
- In emergencies students and parents can communicate through the school switchboard.
- The school takes no liability for the loss or damage of mobile phones, including those that are confiscated.
- Where mobile phones are seen on school grounds they will be confiscated.

4. Sanctions

Phones will be confiscated if they are seen on the school grounds. This includes phones that are switched off but not in a student's bag. (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006)

- First confiscation – Student may collect their phone at the end of the school day.
- Second confiscation – Parents may collect the phone at the end of the school day. (Collection during office hours only)
- Third confiscation – Parents may collect the phone at the end of the school week. (Collection during office hours only)
- Fourth confiscation – Parents may collect the phone at the end of the half term. (Collection during office hours only)

Staff have the power to search pupils' phones, as set out in the *DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation*. The DfE guidance allows schools to search a pupil's phone if the school have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury.

If you find any inappropriate content on a phone relating to Birchensale Middle school, or if you suspect inappropriate behaviour then you should contact a member of the pastoral team without delay. If it is a safeguarding issue this should be referred to the safeguarding team without delay.

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing nude or semi-nude images or videos)
- Upskirting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

5. Loss, theft or damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school. This includes confiscated phones. Confiscated phones will be stored in the school reception and / or pastoral offices.

6. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

- Feedback from parents and pupils
- Feedback from teachers
- Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
- Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations