



Registered Charity 1171812

# Mobile Phone Policy

Summary	
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Responsibility of	Headteacher
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## Introduction

The term 'phone' in this policy denotes mobiles phones, iPods, iPads, MP3, MP4 players, and any similar portable electronic devices.

CRLT recognises that mobile phones, cameras, and digital devices are now an integral part of our culture and can be of considerable value, particularly in relation to personal safety. However, balanced with this is the need to safeguard children and staff from cyber bullying, inappropriate use of the Internet and telecommunications, and the misuse of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, and Instagram, as well as the effect phones have on learning engagement. This policy has been compiled after discussions with members of staff and Trustees.

## Aims

- Use of personal mobile phone for students
- Use of personal mobile phone for staff
- Responsibility and disclaimer

## Use of Personal Mobile Phones for Students

Student phones are allowed on the school site during the academic day. Aside from safeguarding when travelling to and from school, for students with special needs, the phone - for some - helps with a sense of wellbeing. However, we must balance this with the effect phone use has on learning; it has been shown that the effect of banning mobile phones from school premises adds up to the equivalent of an extra week's schooling over a pupil's academic year. This is according to research by Louis-Philippe Beland and Richard Murphy, published by the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. "Communication: The Impact of Mobile Phones on Student Performance" found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of students aged 16 improved by 6.4%. The economists estimate that this is the "equivalent of adding five days to the school year". According to Beland and Murphy, a phone ban produced improvements in test scores among students, with the lowest-achieving students gaining twice as much as average students. This single study revealed that the ban had a greater positive impact on students with special education needs. However, we also have to consider student engagement and have agreed that a compromise was the best option.

Connie Rothman School recognises that parents/carers feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication with home. This helps with safeguarding and child protection, especially in the long dark winter months. CRS supports this approach wholeheartedly. To that end CRS has adopted the following mobile phone best use policy: If a student brings their phone to school, they must hand it in at the beginning of the day and get it back at the end of the day. If the student refuses to hand the phone over the parents will be involved. Any requirement for a parent/guardian to contact a student or a student to contact their parent/guardian can be done through the school reception.

## Use of Personal Mobile Phones for Staff

The school recognises that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately. Mobile phones should never be used to take photographs or videos of children. Should staff need to use their mobile phone, best practice is that mobile phones, wherever possible, should not be used in the presence of the students. Staff should never give their mobile phone number to any pupil. This also includes past pupils under the age of 18 years. Staff should exercise caution when giving their mobile number to parents as this could be misconstrued. The school is aware that some staff members are also parents at the school. If in doubt discuss this with a member of the SLT. Staff mobile phones could contain confidential information regarding other members of staff such as personal phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or pictures, so should have a password locking system enabled to ensure that their contents remain secure in the case of loss.

## Responsibility For Loss and Disclaimer

As previously stated, it is understood why parents may want their child to bring a mobile phone into school. It must be understood that Connie Rothman School and Connie Rothman Learning Trust retains no liability for any phone that is brought into school which is either lost, stolen, damaged, or used in a manner which is against the owner's consent. The School and Trust's advice is to leave mobiles at home and use the old system of contact through the reception.