

Longdean School



Mobile Devices Policy

Trustee Committee:	School Development Committee (SDC)
Term Reviewed:	UNDER REVIEW AUTUMN 2020
Date Ratified:	
Next Review Date:	

1. Introduction

This policy encompasses Digital Technologies including the internet and electronic communications including the use of mobile devices such as phones, laptops, iPods, Kindles, smart watches, tablets, and other wireless technology. This policy was introduced in January 2019 in light of increasing concerns around the time staff were taking to resolve issues around social media. It is so important for students to focus on their education whilst in school and therefore this guidance on mobile devices during the school day removes any ambiguity around this. Exam regulation does not permit any mobile device and adherence to this is critical which the students will also be well prepared for.

The school also has an obligation to ensure students are educated about being safe online and further information on this can be found in the e-Safeguarding Policy.

2. Key stage 3 and 4 (Years 7 to 11)

Phones and other devices including personal laptops, fit bits, smart watches and headphones are not to be seen or heard on site from 08.15 until after 15:30. If headphones are seen then the device they are connected to will also be confiscated. The site refers to all buildings, grounds, pathways and playground areas that form Longdean School.

3. Post 16

Post 16 students can use their devices in the study areas, library and canteen in lesson time. They can use them in lessons under the supervision of a teacher. In break times, use of devices is limited to their study areas only.

4. Devices on trips

Use of devices on trips is to be determined by the trip organiser.

5. Staff

The ban does not extend to staff but our policy reminds them of their obligations around mobile devices.

6. Sanctions

If a device is confiscated the tariff of arrangements below for the return of the item will be established. Any confiscated items will be placed in sealed, labelled envelopes in the school office until they are collected. If headphones are confiscated the device they are connected to will also be removed from the student.

First confiscation – returned to student at the end of the day

Second confiscation – returned to student after 5 school days

Third confiscation – returned to student after 10 school days

Fourth confiscation – returned to parent or legal guardian (not a sibling or other relative) at the end of half term. The phone will be returned in this meeting and there will be a discussion about the sanction for further incidents of misuse.

7. Special Consideration

Parents / guardians can apply to Longdean School for special consideration to not adhere to the policy. Such requests will be looked at on a case by case basis and would normally but not exclusively relate to issues around disability, SEND or medical issues. Any request must be made in writing to the Headteacher. An email request or phone request will not be considered.

8. Longdean School 1:1 Device Scheme

If you have a device through the school's 1:1 device scheme, these can be brought into school for use during lessons if a specific request has been made by the teacher. They should not be seen or used during the school day (08:15 to 15:30) for any other reason. Post 16 should follow their specific guidance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child still bring their phone to school?

Of course! Many of us are parents and we appreciate why you would want your child to have a phone on the way to or from school. They just need to be kept out of sight – for example in bags or lockers – and not used until 15:30.

What if I need to contact my child at school?

In an emergency simply phone the school office on 01442 217277 and the message will be passed to them. In fact, this is actually quicker than trying to contact them directly.

What if my child feels that they urgently need to contact me? They might need me to drop something in that they have forgotten.

Realistically, these occasions occur very rarely, if at all. Our staff are trained and equipped to handle the vast majority of issues that can arise on any school day. However, if they desperately need to contact you before 3:15, they approach their Pastoral Manager or Student Services.

I am concerned about my child's phone being confiscated. How can I help them to avoid this?

The easiest way to avoid any problems is to encourage your child to get into a strict routine of turning their phone off as they approach the school. It should then be placed out of sight.

Is the school allowed to confiscate my child's phone?

Yes, the school is legally allowed to confiscate a phone.

My child has left their phone on and needs to turn it off. What should they do?

Any member of staff can be approached about this. The student should be prompt and honest and ask the member of staff if they can turn their phone off. Speaking to a member of staff first will avoid any potential conflicts.

You are supposed to be preparing children for the world of work. Doesn't possession of a phone prepare them for the real world?

As a society, we are only now becoming aware of the full scope of what young people have been accessing online over the last few years. There is no wider place in the working world for toxic comments, threats, access to explicit material and inappropriate filming. We have been moved to a position where we feel that our students have to be protected from these issues, as have many other secondary schools across the UK. Our existing ICT resources give us all of the real-world applications

that we need. We also note that many workplaces are introducing phone restrictions of their own, so in this respect, we are preparing our young people in a realistic way.

Won't this be detrimental to their education in certain lessons?

No. Longdean has far more ICT capacity than most mainstream secondary schools. We have a bank of laptops, which can be booked by any teacher and used in lessons as and when mobile technology would be of benefit.

As the restriction ends at 15:30, can phones be used on site after that time?

Yes, although we will take the necessary steps if we feel that they are being used to promote negative interaction between students.

What if my child needs to tell the time?

There are clocks in every room. If a child has difficulty reading a clock face, they could always ask either other children or staff. Cheap digital watches are also readily available.

Does this restriction also apply to i-Watches?

Yes.

How will I find out if my child is in detention?

If this is the case, you will always be contacted via the details that you have given us. If in any doubt, do call the school and we will verify for you.

What if school needs my child to do something after school?

We will always contact you if this is the case.

Doesn't this inhibit access to 'Show My Homework'?

There should never be any need to access this app - or any others that we use - during the school day. Access should be part of a routine at home. We would strongly recommend that students check 'Show My Homework' before leaving for school in the morning and when they first come home after school.

What about access to my child's timetable?

This should be checked at home, when the student is preparing for the school day ahead. Students should have stuck their timetable into a diary or folder, or at least made a note of it in a safe place. If this is a change for your child, we would recommend that you have one timetable on display at home, one kept in a safe place at home and one in the student's bag. They can then make a note of what they need for the day ahead.