MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Adopted by the Governing Body August 2023

Reviewed September 2026

AIMS:

At Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi VA we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones can play an important role in the lives of pupils, staff, parents/carers and all members of the school community. This policy is designed to:

- Promote safe and responsible use of mobile phones
- Safeguard the wellbeing of all members of our school community whilst supporting the schools Bullying, Behaviour and Safeguarding policies
- Improve engagement in and attitudes to learning
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff and all members of our school community.

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

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection concerns
- Disruption to learning and to the efficient running of the school
- Risk of theft, loss or damage.

RATIONALE:

Aside from the safeguarding issues, the rationale for this policy is that research has proven that prohibiting the use of mobile phones during the school day adds up to an extra week of schooling over a pupil's academic year. A recent report from the United Nation's education, science and culture agency, said there was evidence that excessive mobile phone use was linked to reduced educational performance and that high levels of screen time had a negative effect on children's emotional stability.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

STAFF: All staff are responsible for enforcing this policy. The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for monitoring the policy annually, reviewing it along with the governing body, and for holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

USE OF PHONES BY PUPILS ON THE DEWI CAMPUS:

The school very much recognises that parents/carers feel the need for their children to have access to mobile phones for communication with home. This helps with safeguarding and child protection. To support this, the school has adopted the following best use mobile phone policy:

- Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety.
- Pupils may use their phones on the school site prior to morning "check in" at 8.40am when their phone must be locked and placed in the secure case provided by the school until form time at 2.50pm when phones will be returned to pupils.
- Pupils must not use a mobile device anywhere in the school day except under the specific direction of a teacher/member of staff.

- Any pupil found using a phone or known to have used their phone during the school day will have the phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed.
- If a pupil repeatedly breaches the policy, the school will request that the parent/carer comes into school to collect the phone.
- Any refusal to hand a phone over to members of staff will result in a follow up sanction in line with the schools Behaviour policy.

COMMUNICATION:

- Any parent/carer needing to contact their child during the school day can contact school reception. Support staff will convey the message to your child and/or arrange for them to call you from the school telephone at a mutually convenient time.
- Any pupils needing to call home may do so from the school telephone during break and lunch time.
- Pupils will be able to use their phones prior to 8.40am and after 3.10pm on the school site.

STAFF:

- Staff will be expected to model this policy and will not use mobile phones on the Dewi Campus when teaching or whilst on break and lunch time duty. Exceptions to this will be necessary for medical, safeguarding and registration purposes and whilst on school visits/extra-curricular activities.
- In emergencies and exceptional personal circumstances the headteacher will decide on a case by case basis to allow special arrangements.
- In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use mobile phones for work, such as in emergency evacuations, supervising off-site activities, monitoring diabetic devices, and supervising residential visits.

This policy will be reviewed annually by pupil voice, the leadership team, staff and the governing body.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/26/put-learners-first-unesco-calls-for-global-ban-on-smartphones-in-schools