

**FILEY SCHOOL
COAST AND VALE
LEARNING TRUST**

Student Mobile Phone Policy

HISTORY OF DOCUMENT

Issue No.	Author	Date Written	Approved by Governors	Comments
1	A. Pickering	May 2023	September 2023	

Aims & Outcomes

The aim of this policy is to provide further information regarding student use of mobile phones and should be read in conjunction with the current Filey School Behaviour Policy.

The policy includes four sections:

- 1. Rules around the use of mobile phones***
- 2. Exceptional circumstances***
- 3. Responding to incidents of sharing of nude or semi-nude images***
- 4. Actions around other suspected harmful content***
- 5. Legislative Context & Statutory Guidance***

1. Rules around the use of mobile phones

From Section 7 of the Filey School Behaviour Policy:

“Students are allowed to bring mobile phones into the school, provided that they are switched off at the school gates on entering school and not switched back on until students leave the school grounds at the end of the school day. During the school day they should remain hidden from view, in the bottom of a school bag or coat pocket. Identical restrictions apply to all other electrical devices; smart watches, ear buds or wireless earphones, music players, etc. Students in Consequences or Internal Suspension will be expected to hand in their electronic devices on arrival. They will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

Should students not adhere to these rules, the item will be confiscated and placed in a secure place until a responsible adult can collect it. On collection, a letter will be issued to the adult asking them to take steps to encourage compliance with the rule in the future. For a first offence, the student may collect it themselves at the end of the school day. Any mobile phones still held at the end of each half term will be returned to the individual concerned."

2. Exceptional circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for students to access their mobile phone on the school site. Such an example is for medical reasons e.g., for students with diabetes, when an app is required to monitor blood sugar levels. In such cases, the arrangement will be agreed with parents in advance and the relevant information shared with staff.

Where a student wishes to contact a family member in an emergency, they should speak to a member of the pastoral staff, who will arrange for the student to contact home as appropriate. Failure to do so may result in sanctions being applied as per Section 7 of the Filey School Behaviour Policy

3. Responding to incidents of sharing of nude or semi-nude images

In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCIS, 2020), this is defined as the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams online by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or other forums.

Since it is illegal for staff to view such images, where it has been reported or disclosed that a student has such an image or images on their phone, following initial information gathering, the matter will be passed to the police who will decide how best to deal with the incident. In exceptional circumstances and for safeguarding reasons, **the DSL only** may need to view an such an image.

In such cases, the relevant electronic device(s) will be confiscated and stored securely in school, and parents / carers will be informed. Should police officers take possession of said device(s), the school will not take responsibility for the length of time they are held nor for any loss or damage.

4. Actions around other suspected harmful content

Where it has been reported or disclosed that a phone or other electronic device (including smartwatches) may contain suspected harmful content, it may be necessary, for safeguarding reasons or for suspected serious breaches of school behaviour policy, to confiscate a student mobile phone or device and to view the relevant content. Where student mobile phone content

is scrutinised, this will be conducted by two members of staff, one of whom will be a member of the core safeguarding team, ie. The Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader (DDSL). In such circumstances, students may be asked to remove the offending content from their device under supervision by the staff members. Parental permission is not required to confiscate or screen a device, but parents /carers will be informed that such action has taken place.

In addition to incidents involving nude or semi-nude images, it may be necessary, following a school investigation, to report serious incidents to the police, in which cases the process outlined in Section 3 applies. A safeguarding referral may also be made to Children & Families Services, depending on the individual circumstances of the incident.

The following are examples of harmful content. However, the list is not exhaustive. Each incident will be assessed individually and is at the discretion of the core safeguarding team. The use of a mobile phone outside school hours to intimidate or upset staff and students will be considered in the same way as unacceptable use which takes place in school hours.

- Taking photographs and / or videos in school, which includes photographing or filming staff and/or students without permission in lessons or at social time.
- Publishing photographs of vulnerable students, where this may place them at additional risk.
- Photographing or filming in toilets, changing rooms and similar areas.
- Bullying, harassment, humiliation or intimidation of staff or students using text, social media, email or multimedia messaging.
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about staff or other students.
- Photographing or filming damage being caused to school property or property being vandalised.
- Photographing or filming criminal damage being committed in the wider community.
- Photographs, videos or messages which may damage the reputation of the school.

If a student commits an act which causes serious harassment, alarm or distress to another student or member of staff. The student will be dealt with through the behaviour system and may face internal exclusion or suspension. School will consider the impact on the victim of the act in deciding the sanction.

5. *Whistleblowing* – for further information, please see the CVLT Whistleblowing Trust Policy.

6. *Legislative Context & Statutory Guidance*

- Equalities Act 2010
- Sections 90 & 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 detailing the general power to discipline
- Section 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 detailing powers of confiscation

- Education Act 2002.
- Behaviour and discipline in schools: Advice for governing bodies, September 2015
- Behaviour in Schools: Advice for headteachers and school staff, July 2022
- The Equality Act 2010 and Schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities, May 2014
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for schools, July 2022
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022)
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident (UK Council for Internet Safety, December 2020)