



## Southlands School Mobile Phone Policy

(includes similar devices with recording/data capability; Tablets/Smart watch)

### **Purpose**

Southlands school recognise that Mobile phones (including similar devices with recording/data capability; Tablets/Smart watch) are used widely amongst young people. This policy has been written to enable students who travel to and from school independently to continue to use mobile phones off the school site. Our policy reflects changes in the most current policy from the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education. This policy is also written in response to recent incidents in school where students have used their mobile phones inappropriately. The safety and wellbeing of the students in our care and the staff who work in school is our top priority.

### **Rationale**

Personal safety and security

Southlands school acknowledge that many parents/carers give their children mobile phones for personal safety and security reasons. Those students who use public transport/walk/cycle benefit from the reassurance of being able to contact parents/carers/school if they need to on their journey to and from school.

The school office remains the route for all communication with school. If you need to get in touch with the child in your care please do so through the school office. Office staff will ensure that any important messages are given to your child within a reasonable amount of time.

### **Responsibility**

If parent/carer chooses to allow the child in their care to bring a mobile phone into school, they need to follow the guidelines outlined in this document.

The decision to allow a child to bring a mobile phone into school should be made by the parent or carer and not the child.

Parents/carers should always be aware if the child in their care brings a mobile phone into school.

Contact between home and child and vice versa should be through the office phone not the child's mobile.

### **Acceptable Use**

If a student fails to hand in their mobile phone on arrival to school safe box relative to students school transport/ or the hub on entry to the school premises, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the school safe until a parent or carer is able to come into school to collect the device.

Any phone coming into school should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. Southlands school will accept no liability for the loss or damage of a phone brought onto the school site. Mobile phones remain the responsibility of the student, if the decision is made to bring a phone into school.

Mobile phones should be set with a pin/pass code for security they should be switched off and handed into the member of staff on duty at the gate when students get off their transport. Phones will be put in a group sealed box relevant to the students transport for safe keeping.

At the end of the school day, students will collect their phones out of the bus transport group box on their way to their school transport these boxes will be available at the school gates from a member of staff. This will be the student's responsibility to remember to do this.

### **Unacceptable Use**

Mobile phones are not to be used by students anywhere on the school site.

The school's Wi-Fi will not be permitted to be used by students on any personal mobile device.

If a student fails to hand in their mobile phone to the school office/form tutor on entry to the school building, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the school safe until a parent or carer is able to come into school to collect the device.

A mobile phone must not be used to film, record or photograph staff or other pupils without their knowledge or permission.

Where mobile phones are used outside of school to intimidate or bully a student, school will deal with this behaviour following the schools behaviour policy.

Any parents or visitor coming into school will not be permitted to use mobile phones to film, record or take photographs of our students.

### **DfE Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cf5f2a4239310011b7b916/Mobile\\_phones\\_in\\_schools\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cf5f2a4239310011b7b916/Mobile_phones_in_schools_guidance.pdf)