



Newham PRUs Mobile Phone and Portable Technology Policy

Reviewed policy agreed by Head teacher: March 2026

Reviewed policy shared with staff: March 2026

Policy to be reviewed again: Summer Term 2027



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1. Introduction and Scope

This Mobile Phone and Portable Technology Policy forms an integral part of the overarching behaviour management framework at Newham PRUs. It must be read in conjunction with the school **Behaviour Policy** and the **Safeguarding and Early Help Policy**.

Our aim is to create a nurturing, learning community with the welfare of our pupils and staff at its centre. We recognise that all staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. To minimise distractions, prevent disruptive behaviour, and safeguard our school community from online and offline harms, strict regulations regarding the use of mobile phones and portable technology are enforced.

2. Prohibition of Mobile Phones and Devices

Students are strictly prohibited from having mobile phones or portable technology in their possession during the school day.

- **Exceptions:** Exceptions to this rule will only be granted for exceptional, prearranged reasons, such as a device being required as part of an agreed medical care plan. Any such exception must be explicitly authorised by the Headteacher or a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in advance.

3. Daily Search, Confiscation, and Storage Procedures

To ensure safety and maintain discipline, all students are searched by an allocated staff member upon entry each morning.

- **Handing in Devices:** Students are required to hand any mobile phone or portable devices to staff daily when they are searched on entry to the schools.
- **Secure Storage:** These devices will be held securely in individual student lockers throughout the day and returned when the student leaves school at the end of the day.
- **Confiscation:** School staff retain the right to seize any prohibited item found during a search or any item deemed harmful or detrimental to school discipline, in line with the Department for Education's 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' advice for schools.
- **Liability Disclaimer:** The school is not responsible for the safety, loss, or damage of any mobile phones or technology students bring to school and hand in. Bringing these devices onto school premises is done entirely at the parent/carer's and student's own risk.



4. Unacceptable Use and Safeguarding Risks

Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, and children are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face-to-face. To protect our students and staff, the following rules apply:

- **Photography and Recording:** The use of mobile phones or any portable technology to take photographs or videos of staff, students, or the school environment is strictly prohibited.
- **Online Harms and Abuse:** Inappropriate use of technology—whether it occurs inside or outside of school hours—will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - **Cyberbullying:** Including prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying.
 - **Sexual Harassment and Violence:** Making unwanted sexual comments, jokes, or engaging in online sexual harassment.
 - **Image Sharing:** The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (often referred to as sexting or youth-produced sexual imagery).
 - **Upskirting:** Taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, which is a criminal offence.
 - **Exposure to Harmful Content:** Accessing illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, including pornography, self-harm materials, or extremist/radicalisation propaganda.

Any breaches of these rules will be addressed robustly through the school's Behaviour Policy, and where a crime may have been committed, incidents will be reported to the police.

5. Social Media Guidance and Support

We recognise the potential for social media to facilitate the spreading of rumours, expose victims' identities, and act as a platform where children can be targeted and recruited for exploitation, including county lines.

However, we also recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends, and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.

- **Reporting Concerns:** Students are strongly encouraged to report any concerns they have regarding their own or others' use of mobile phones and social media.
- **Safeguarding Support:** Any student who raises a concern will be listened to and supported by staff. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or pastoral staff will intervene to assist with any safeguarding matters, ensuring that victims are reassured they are being taken seriously, supported, and kept safe. Where necessary, the school will initiate Early Help assessments or involve local authority children's social care to ensure the child's wellbeing.