

MOBILE PHONE CODE OF CONDUCT

Fortismere School recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life but that such technologies need to be used well. Personal safety is vital, and it is the school's responsibility to make sure that students feel safe so that they can engage in their learning and develop as responsible caring young adults.

As a result of on-going concerns over the misuse of smartphones and the negative impact that this misuse may have on the wellbeing of the members of our school community we no longer permit KS3 and KS4 students to bring smartphones, i.e. internet enabled, camera phones to school.

Students are allowed to have a non-smart mobile phone with them in school, however, this must remain switched off and in their bags during school hours; this includes clubs and after school activities and trips. These mobiles must not be kept in students' pockets at any time.

KS5 students are permitted to have smart phones, but these should be used with discretion and, if used in class, with permission.

If a KS3 or KS4 student is seen with, or uses a phone, it will be confiscated. Phones will not be returned the same week they are confiscated and therefore, we encourage you to ensure your son or daughter adhere to the rules as they will be without their phone for a period of time. Phones will only be able to be collected on scheduled days between 3.30 and 4.15pm from the security guard on the Tetherdown gate. You will be notified via parentmail of your collection date. If the collection date falls on a half day at the end of term, collection will be available between 12.30 and 1.15pm. If the collection day is a scheduled INSET it will be available to be collected the day after the closure. If you are unable to collect on that date and time we will keep the phone until you are able to collect. They will not be able to be collected at other times. The school reserves the right to increase the period of confiscation if a student breaks this Code of Conduct repeatedly; if this is the case parents will be invited in to meet with a senior member of staff.

Fortismere School accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or devices if they are bought into school. The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school. It is the responsibility of parents / carers to ensure that students leave for school without a smartphone.

Parents / carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office is the first point of contact and office staff can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any relevant way. Passing on messages through school reception also reduces the likelihood of disrupting lessons inadvertently. This also applies for clubs and activities that take place after school hours.