

NEWALL GREEN HIGH SCHOOL



POLICY ON MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES



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Document Control

Title:	Policy on Mobile Phones and Devices
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Amendments	Completely new policy
Related Policies / Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-bullying Policy • E-safety Policy • Data Protection Policy • Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy • Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy • Behaviour and Rewards Policy
Review	1 year
Author	L Jones
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Prosperre Learning Trust (*Previously CHS Learning Trust and Piper Hill Learning Trust*) is a Multi Academy Trust. Registered in England and Wales - number 10872612

Registered Office: Piper Hill High School, Firbank Road, Wythenshawe, M23 2YS

The Prosperre Learning Trust has a number of Trust-wide policies which are adopted by all schools/academies in the Trust to ensure an equitable and consistent delivery of provision.

The Trust Board has responsibility for the operation of all schools/academies and the outcomes of all students however responsibility is delegated to the Local Governing Body of each school via the Scheme of Delegation.

Within our policies reference to:

- Governing Body / Governors relates to the members of the Local Governing Body representing the Trust Board.
- School includes reference to school, academy or free school unless otherwise stated.
- Headteacher includes reference to Headteacher, Principal or Head of School of the school, academy or free school.

POLICY ON MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES

1. Rationale:

- 1.1. A real focus for us as a school has been to ensure the very best climate for learning so that students are fully prepared for lessons and any distraction is eliminated. To support this **we have made the decision to ban the use of mobile phones within school because of the negative effect on student learning.** This will be from after May half term in the summer of 2019.
- 1.2. This decision has not been taken lightly and we have undertaken significant research into the issues surrounding mobile phone use in schools. Students have had a number of assemblies during the Spring Term 2019 regarding acceptable use of mobile phones and they have been informed about our new policy during the first part of the summer term in 2019.
- 1.3. Students have been given the opportunity to adjust to the new way of working during the first part of the summer term and the policy will be fully implemented from Monday 3rd June 2019.
- 1.4. To ensure that the policy is clear, the school website is being updated to reflect how the policy will be implemented, although the basic principles are as a listed below.

2. Mobile phones on the school premises:

- 2.1. Mobile phones should be 'off and away' at all times, any phone seen or heard will be confiscated, this includes phones on display in shirt pockets.
- 2.2. Phones that are confiscated will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first instance, although should there be a second occurrence a call will be made home with the requirement for a parent / carer to collect the phone on their child's behalf.
- 2.3. The restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school building, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds and not accessed until they have left the site.
- 2.4. Should students need to contact parents urgently with any concerns they should make their way to main reception who will make arrangements for parents to be contacted.
- 2.5. We would ask all parents to support the school by discussing the implications of the new policy and explaining the rationale for no longer allowing mobile phones in school.

3. Information on the use of mobile phones in schools:

- 3.1. We have spent a great deal of time over the last few months examining the impact of the use of mobile phones in School. We have spoken to staff, students and parents and have looked at the latest research regarding their use in a school setting.
- 3.2. In the UK, more than 90% of teenagers own a mobile phone. The prevalence of these devices pose problems for Head teachers and in many cases attitudes to their use has hardened as they have become more ubiquitous.
- 3.3. In a survey conducted in 2001, no schools banned mobile phones. By 2007, this had risen to 50% and by 2012 some 98% of schools either did not allow mobile phones on school premises or required them to be handed in at the beginning of the day.
- 3.4. Our experience at Newall Green is that mobile phones are increasingly involved in; incidents of antisocial behaviour and bullying between students, influencing inappropriate behaviours from and between students as well as creating unnecessary confrontation between staff and students in school.
- 3.5. The situation is further complicated by many students and parents seeing it as their “right” to have constant use of a device.
- 3.6. As well as the obvious social disadvantages of phone use in school, recent research has cast doubt on their educational worth. “Ill communication: The impact of mobile phones on student performance.” by Louis–Phillipe Beland and Richard Murphy found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of 16 year old students improved by 6.4%. The economists reckon this is the “equivalent of adding five days to the school year.”
- 3.7. There is growing evidence that the internet and digital gadgets are making it harder for us to concentrate. The Pew research centre in America surveyed 2,500 teachers and found that they thought the internet had a “mostly positive” impact on student research work, while 87% felt modern technologies were creating an “easily distracted generation with short attention spans.” The generation Y report felt that while young people are “undoubtedly capable of long periods of concentration” those who spend a lot of time alone using technology” tend to have less in the way of communication skills, self-awareness and emotional intelligence.”

4. Legal Framework:

- 4.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
 - DfE (2018) ‘Keeping children safe in education’
 - DfE (2018) ‘Searching, screening and confiscation’
 - The Data Protection Act 2018

5. Rationale:

5.1. All points in this policy apply to any device which is internet-enabled including all:

- Mobile phones including Android phones, iPhones, Smartphones.
- Personal Digital Assistants
- Handheld entertainment systems and associated equipment including games consoles, CD players, DVD players, MP3 players, iPods and earphones.
- Portable internet devices such as iPad.
- Internet - enabled watches including Smart watches, GPS watches, FitBits, Fitness Trackers, and Besties.
- Electronic reading devices (E-Readers) including Kindles.

5.2. Newall Green High School's policy regarding mobile phones and all of the above electronic devices is that they should not be used at all on the school site for the following reasons:

- Using these items during the school day could potentially disrupt teaching and learning.
- Some of these devices can be used to bully, harass or emotionally harm others.
- As mobile phones and other personal electronic devices are equipped to record sound, take photographs and video images, this technology is open to significant abuse. Taking of such images contravenes the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Devices with cameras present risk to vulnerable students and students in vulnerable situations such as in the changing rooms.
- The devices listed above are not permitted in examination rooms.
- These items are usually of high value and are therefore at risk of being stolen in school or on the way to or from school.

6. Principles:

6.1. The purpose of this policy is to prevent unacceptable use of mobile phones, "smart watches", tablets etc. by students, and thereby to protect the School's staff and students from undesirable materials, filming, intimidation or harassment.

6.2. Where a mobile phone is brought into school, it is entirely at the student's and parents' own risk. The School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of any phone, mp3 player or other mobile device brought into school.

- 6.3. Mobile phones and devices which are brought into school must be turned off (not placed on silent) and stored out of sight immediately the student arrives in school. They must remain turned off and out of sight until the student has left the school site at the end of the day.
- 6.4. Students have no legitimate need to use a mobile phone during the school day.
- 6.5. Where parents or students need to contact each other during the school day, they should do so only through the School's telephone system (via Reception or Student Services) and not via student mobile phones.
- 6.6. Any student caught filming another person (and/or uploading images or video onto the Internet) will have their phone confiscated. It will be treated as a disciplinary matter and their parents will normally be informed. If the action is repeated, flagrant or of a serious nature, the matter will be treated as a serious disciplinary issue. In such circumstances, the student's parents will be informed and the Governing Body may be notified.
- 6.7. The School reserves the right to search the content of a confiscated device where there is a reasonable suspicion that it may contain undesirable material, including those which promote pornography, violence or bullying.

7. Procedure if a student does not comply with the policy:

- 7.1. If a mobile phone is seen by a member of staff anywhere on the school premises, that member of staff will be required to confiscate it immediately and pass the phone to the main office for secure storage as soon as possible.
- 7.2. The admin team will then send a text message to inform parents of the confiscation.
- 7.3. A SIMS record will be completed by the teacher who confiscated the phone, with full details of the confiscation and actions taken.
- 7.4. The phone will be kept in secure storage for the rest of the day.
- 7.5. The student will be able to collect their phone, from a member of the senior Leadership Team at the main reception, at the end of the school day once duties have been completed.
- 7.6. If there is a second confiscation, parents will be informed and will be asked to ensure that their child does not use their mobile device on the school premises.
- 7.7. If there is a third confiscation, parents will need to come into school to collect the phone. On collection of the phone, parents will meet with a member of the pastoral or senior leadership team. During this meeting, parents will be reminded of school policy. The phone may also be checked for any inappropriate material.
- 7.8. If a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone, the parent will be called and will be asked to come into school and collect their child's phone immediately. Parents



will then be asked to bring their child into school the next day for a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

- 7.9. If a mobile phone goes off, or if a student uses a mobile phone in the final hour of the school day the phone will be confiscated as normal and the student may take their phone home at the end of the day. However, they should hand it in the start of the next day for confiscation and parents will be informed.
- 7.10. If a student is asked to hand over their phone to a member of staff and says that they do not have their phone in school, they will be expected to prove this by emptying their pockets and school bag.

