



# James Bateman Middle School

## Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Adoption and Revision Details				
Policy Adoption:	June 2026	Effective Date	27.06.2024	Version 1
Review	June 2029			

James Bateman Middle School is committed to ensuring the safety of students in its care. We recognise the importance of mobile phones in school for communication purposes, but are aware that casual or inappropriate use of mobile phones in the school could pose a risk to students and adults.

It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, and which are most susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. It is also recognised that mobile phones can cause an unnecessary distraction during the working day and can be intrusive when used in the company of others.

When mobile phones are misused it can impact on an individual's dignity, privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not exclusive to students and young people; hence there is a duty to protect the needs and vulnerabilities of all.

It is appreciated that it can be very difficult to detect when such devices are present or being used, particularly in relation to enhanced functions, such as cameras. The use of all mobile phones is therefore prohibited in school. The aim is to avoid distraction and disruption of the working day, and to minimise the opportunities for any individual to make any covert images or misuse functions in any other way.

Please note that for the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' also covers any electronic device with the capacity to be used as a form of communication, either through the device itself or any applications stored on the device.

While we understand that some parents/carers allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school for security and safety, if mobile phones are turned on in school, they serve as a distraction to the learning of pupils and they could potentially pose as a risk to the safety of pupils in school.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to pupils having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons. There are also risks when using a mobile phone has while walking to and from school. Students who are concentrating on using their phone can have reduced general safety awareness which may result in road accidents and/or injury if a child is not paying attention to their surroundings.

**If students bring mobile phones into school then the following procedures apply;**

- Mobile phones/smart devices **must** be switched off and kept out of sight during classroom lessons and while moving between lessons. (Pupils are able to drop their mobile phones at reception in the morning and collect them at the end of the day if they would prefer).
- Mobile phones/ smart devices should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application at any point during the school day and during other educational activities and after school clubs.
- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, their first point of communication should be made by telephoning the school office. Parents must not encourage their child to use their mobile phone during the school day to contact them or to receive messages.
- Mobile phones/smart devices (including AirPods) should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the school, including while walking in or out of school on the school grounds.
- Should there be any disruption to lessons caused by a mobile phone/smart device, the pupil responsible will face consequences in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- It is unacceptable to take a picture of a member of staff without their permission.
- It is unacceptable to take a picture of a member of any pupil without their permission.
- Any mobile phone use or content deemed to be of an inappropriate or illegal nature will be reported to the police and local authority safeguarding team.

Pupils who infringe the rules set out in the mobile phone/devices policy will face having their phones/devices confiscated by teachers. If the phone is being used inappropriately, the pupil must give it to a teacher if requested. Parents will then be asked to collect the mobile device. **Please see Appendix 1**

Mobile phones deposited in the office will be kept safely in a locked box. Whilst the school will take every reasonable care, it accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure mobile phones are properly insured. It is recommended that pupil's phones are security marked and password protected.

Adaptations and reasonable adjustment will be assessed on their own merits.

The Department of Education Mobile phones in schools guidance can be found here

[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)

## Appendix 1

Pupil is caught using their mobile phone in school.



Phone is confiscated and taken to reception – behaviour points issued



Pupil is made aware that the phone can be collected from reception at the end of the day. By an adult.



Parents are made aware



Pupil is caught using their mobile phone in school again – behaviour points issued



Phone is confiscated and taken to reception. Pupils are hand in their phone/device in reception each day for the rest of term.



Parents are contacted. If the pupil is caught using their mobile phone/device in school for a third time, parent is to collect the phone and a mobile phone ban will be issued to that pupil

