



DUBAI COLLEGE

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Mobile Phone Policy

Dubai College accepts that practices around the use of mobile devices are changing and in response to this, allows students to have mobile phones in school predominantly for educational and emergency purposes. For example a student may wish to access the internet in class, take a photograph of work on the board, or if they miss the College Bus or their 'lift' home they can use a mobile to alert a parent of the situation. Using a mobile phone in this manner is entirely appropriate. In allowing students to bring mobile phones to school, Dubai College emphasises that it accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to phones whilst they are on school premises.

During lessons, morning break, lunchtime and form periods mobile phones must be switched off to prevent them from becoming a distraction. There have been instances of students texting during lessons and parents phoning their child's mobile during lessons, which is not unacceptable. Since mobile phones have a variety of additional functions class teachers may, on occasions, allow students to use their phones during lessons. Use can include calculator or dictionary applications, cameras and internet access but students **must seek permission** from their teachers before the phones are used in class and must be turned off again at the end of the lesson.

If parents wish to pass on an **urgent** message during school hours, they should contact the School Office/Reception. Similarly, students who have a genuine need to contact their parents whilst they are on school premises may use the pay phone or the telephone in the School Office/Reception.

Mobile phones should not be used as a recreational, social or fashion items! Staff will model this behaviour themselves and make expectations clear through form periods, assemblies and the PHSE/enrichment programme.

If a pupil's mobile phone causes any disturbance whatsoever during the school day, it can be confiscated by the teacher and handed to the student's Head of Year. If a pupil repeatedly ignores the college's policy with regard to mobile phone use, he/she may have the phone confiscated for a longer period by the Deputy Headmaster and ultimately may lose the privilege of having a mobile phone in college at all.

Summary

- Mobiles must be switched off during lessons. Having the phone switched to silent mode is not acceptable.
- Parents can always contact the School Office for **urgent** messages and students are allowed to use the school telephone to contact parents where there is a genuine need.
- Whilst it is not forbidden, children should be discouraged from using mobiles for more trivial practices such as games, texting or taking photographs.
- Mobiles can be used in class if the teacher has given permission. Their use is restricted to the support of teaching and learning.
- Mobiles should never be visible. They should be in a bag or pocket
- Students who abuse these rules will have their phone confiscated. In the first instance this is likely to be overnight by their Head of Year.
- Students persistently abusing these guidelines may lose the privilege of having a mobile phone in college.

Policy Details

Version date	September 2016
Last review	September 2015
Next review	September 2017
Responsible SLT	Deputy Headmaster