



GORDONSTOUN

Senior School Mobile Devices Policy

MOBILE DEVICES POLICY

Technology is a vitally important part of modern life and digital learning is a key component of the Gordonstoun curriculum.

However, research suggests a growing trend of problematic smartphone use, a pattern of behaviour that mirrors that of a behavioural addiction. A consistent relationship has been demonstrated between problematic smartphone usage and harmful mental health symptoms including: depression, anxiety, high levels of perceived stress and poor sleep.

Following extensive consultation with staff, students and parents, as well as desktop research and many years of lived school experience, this policy seeks to strike a balance between the benefits and the potential harms of technology.

SCOPE

This policy covers the use of laptops, tablets, mobile phones, headphones (including in-ear, wired and wireless) and speakers on campus. It applies to day and boarding students in Gordonstoun Senior School.

EDUCATION

Addiction to mobile devices is discussed in the ISC curriculum, Houses and in Chapel. The school's Counselling Service is available for students who show signs of addiction.

GENERAL

Students must register all electronic devices (serial / IMEI / phone number) with their house staff. We recommend devices are also labelled with the student's name.

Students are only allowed one mobile phone.

Meals are a time for socialising with friends and developing good eating and social habits. Therefore, mobile devices must never be used in meals.

It is widely recognised that mobile phones interrupt the quality and quantity of sleep of both adults and children. The effect of proper implementation of this policy is that no student will sleep with a mobile phone in their room which is switched on. This means that students may wish to have an alarm clock (although there is a rounds person in each house who wakes up students). Students are encouraged to refrain from using any screen at least 30 minutes before sleep.

Mobile devices are not permitted on STV and may only be taken on expeditions with the express permission of staff and then only when required for safety reasons (e.g. on an unaccompanied expedition).

EXCEPTIONS

Any student needing a mobile device for health or wellbeing reasons must have written approval from the Assistant Head Wellbeing.

If staff feel that, despite limitations within this policy, students are using laptops or phones excessively (e.g. for gaming or social media) additional restrictions to support learning or wellbeing may be imposed.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS

Student use of laptops is widely permitted within this policy. This means that students can check their school emails on a regular basis.

When members of staff need to contact students, this should be done in a timely manner using the student email address.

Pupil planning and administration time can be built into the final minutes of lessons, to support pupils in accessing email. Laptops are also accessible during prep and social time.

CONTACT WITH HOME

Student use of laptops is widely permitted within this policy. This means that students can check their school emails on a regular basis. Parents should use these school email addresses for corresponding with their children.

Parents should not expect their children to be checking social media messages during the school day.

Wherever possible, parents should arrange to speak with or message their children during the times for permitted phone use as laid out in this policy. Special arrangements can be put in place for families living in different time zones.

Parents who need to reach their child urgently should contact the House or school reception.

CHARGING LOCKERS

The table below sets out times when devices will be locked in House charging lockers. If the phone is needed outside of these times (for example in exceptional circumstances or in the case of time differences) House staff may unlock the lockers.

DAY STUDENTS

Where it is noted below that devices must be left in House, day students who wish to bring a mobile phone to school must leave it in House before attending chapel.

SANCTIONS

Students found in contravention of the policy will have their device confiscated immediately and placed in a labelled envelope in the Key Stage Leader's pigeon hole.

These items will be treated with care, but neither the school nor staff member will be responsible for repairs or replacements; items must be insured by the student.

Students who are argumentative in these situations can expect further disciplinary measures. Sanction points will be logged in iSAMs. Sanctions are cleared at the end of each academic year.

1ST OFFENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile devices confiscated for 24 hours.• Conversation with KSL.
2ND OFFENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile devices confiscated for 48 hours.• Conversation with KSL.
3RD OFFENCE ONWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile devices confiscated for 72 hours.• Formal communication with parents from KSL.• Recommended addiction support.

	LAPTOPS / TABLETS				MOBILE PHONES				HEADPHONES / SPEAKERS			
	School Day	Prep	Evening / Weekend / Social Time	Overnight	School Day	Prep	Evening / Weekend / Social Time	Overnight	School Day	Prep	Evening / Weekend / Social Time	Overnight
YEAR 9 - 10	Yes	Yes	Yes	In charging locker by 2115 (Y9) and 2130 (Y10)	In charging locker (may be collected at 1630)	In charging locker	Yes	In charging locker by 2115 (Y9) and 2130 (Y10)	No - left in House	Only when connected to laptop	Yes, but not when walking around campus	No
YEAR 11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Switched off at lights out	No - left in House before breakfast / chapel	Switched off	Yes	Switched off at lights out	No - left in House before breakfast / chapel	Only when connected to laptop	Yes, but not when walking around campus	No
YEAR 12 - 13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Switched off at lights out	Only when in Sixth Form Centre, House, or lessons when directed by staff (otherwise switched off and out of sight)	Can be used for music with headphones	Yes	Switched off at lights out	Only when in Sixth Form Centre, House, or lessons when directed by staff (otherwise switched off and out of sight)	Headphones permitted	Yes, but not when walking around campus	No

OWNER	Deputy Head Pastoral
AUTHOR OF THIS POLICY	Assistant Head Boarding
DATE OF THIS POLICY	August 2023
DATE OF REVIEW OF THIS POLICY	July 2024
APPROVAL AUTHORITY	Executive