

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BAHRAIN



Whole School Use of Mobile Phone Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Infant School rules
3. Junior School and Senior School rules
4. Senior school privilege
5. Sixth Form privilege
6. Contravention of mobile phone use rules
7. Misuse of phones
8. Setting an example
9. Emergency calls home

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The BSB recognises the use of phones has become commonplace, and that phones may be an appropriate tool to use as part of a child's education. However, unsupervised use of mobile phones may be problematic, and the school must be in a position to monitor the use of mobile phones to promote student well-being, prevent mobile phone misuse, and contribute to the holistic education of its students.
- 1.2. This policy does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

2. Infant School rules

- 2.1. Infant school children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

3. Junior School and Senior School rules

- 3.1. Students may bring a mobile phone to school;
- 3.2. The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones brought in.
- 3.3. Once on the school site, mobile phones must be switched off and placed in a safe place, for instance, a bag or locker.
- 3.4. Students are not permitted to take out, view or use their phones from the time they enter the school site in the morning, until the end of the school day when they may need to contact their parents, apart from:
 - 3.4.1. When given permission by a teacher to use the phones for work purposes;
 - 3.4.2. In case of emergency, with teacher permission (for example, in the case of a school closure);
 - 3.4.3. Point 4 below, pertaining to the Sixth Form.
- 3.5. Students must not allow other students to use their phones during the school day.
- 3.6. Students must also put earphones (wired or wireless) away when on the school site, unless given permission to use by teachers.
- 3.7. Usage is governed by the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

4. Sixth Form privilege

- 4.1. Sixth Form students may use their phones and earbuds/earphones in the Sixth Form study areas. They must use their phones responsibly and adhere to the school behaviour policy. They should refrain from taking phones out or using them in corridors, outside areas and other public places.

5. Relationship with BYOD policy

- 5.1. The school believes that mobile phones are not as practical as tablets or laptops, and so does not recommend that students use them as a designated device as outlined in the [BYOD Policy](#). However, students may use their mobile phone in class, for certain academic purposes, with permission by their teacher. In these circumstances, the regulations outlined in the [BYOD Policy](#) apply.

6. Contravention of mobile phone use rules

6.1. If the above rules are broken, BSB staff will confiscate the phone, placing them in a secure location as designated by the individual school. The student will be told where this is.

- 1st offence: the student may collect the phone at the end of the school day;
- 2nd offence: the student's parents or responsible person must attend school to pick up the phone;
- 3rd offence: the school reserves the right to ban the student from bringing a phone to school for the rest of the term/academic year. There may be other sanctions as deemed appropriate given the nature of the offence, and the school Behaviour Policy.

7. Misuse of phones

7.1. If students misuse phones on-site or off-site, and it contravenes this policy; impacts upon other students' well-being; represents a child protection or safeguarding concern; or brings the school into disrepute, the school will take action according to the school's Behaviour Policy.

8. Setting an example

8.1. All community members should be aware that children often imitate adult behaviour. Therefore, we encourage staff, parents and other community members to show discretion when using their phones. We accept that emails and other important messages may need to be addressed on the school site, but in places where students are present, may we politely request that community members keep mobile phone use to a minimum.

8.2. Staff should not use their phones during lessons or while on duty, unless in an emergency or where absolutely necessary.

8.3. The school does not permit staff to take photographs of students using their personal mobile phones.

9. Emergency calls home

9.1. Students are not permitted to call their parents directly, even in an emergency, but should do so through the school's leadership and PA teams. Likewise, parents are requested to contact the school, not their son or daughter directly, to relay messages. **This is a vital safeguarding issue that will be taken very seriously if contravened.**

9.2. If a student feels unwell, they should seek permission to visit the nurse. The nurse will make a professional judgment about whether parents should be contacted, and may involve the school counsellors. The nurses and school counsellors are the only staff qualified to make the decision that a student should go home due to illness. If a student calls parents directly, then it will be considered a breach of this policy.

9.3. If a student has some other emergency/important reason to contact home, they should seek permission to speak with a Head of Year or Senior Leader within the school, who will make a professional judgment whether parents should be contacted. School staff or the students themselves, depending on age and circumstance, may use one of the school landline phones to do so. Senior school students may use their mobile phone in a designated area, while supervised, to speak with their parents.