



**Longridge High School**

## Mobile Devices Policy

Longridge High School  
Preston Road  
Longridge  
Preston  
PR3 3AR

**t** 01772 782316

**e** [admin@lhs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lhs.lancs.sch.uk)

**w** [www.lhs.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.lhs.lancs.sch.uk)

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## Mobile Devices Policy

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# 1 Rationale

Mobile communication devices are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many of these devices
- The integration of cameras into them leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the device e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode.

It is not realistic to prohibit all of these devices being brought into school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect them in each morning and return them in the afternoon.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy.

For the purpose of this policy a mobile phone shall mean a mobile phone and any other smart device with a similar functionality to a mobile phone (for example, the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via a mobile phone network) including, but not limited to, tablet devices and smart watches.

It is our policy to allow pupils to have devices with them in school under the conditions outlined below:

- Devices can be brought to school but must be switched off and kept in school bags. They should not be in a pocket or about their person.
- If a device is seen or heard during the school day it will be confiscated.
- Devices are not to be used as time pieces instead of watches.
- Pupils found abusing the use of a device (e.g. making threatening calls) will be banned from bringing the device to school.
- If the pupil is attending an after-school sanction, the device may not be used or seen during this time as it is considered an extension of the school day.
- Smart watches are allowed as a time telling device, but must not be used during the school day as a means of communicating, as per the Uniform and Appearance Policy.
- No electronic watches of any kind may be worn in or taken into examinations.
- Those pupils who use their phone as a tool for monitoring diabetes levels may keep their mobile phone switched on and on their person, with the guidance of the school nurse.

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- If a pupil breaches these rules the device will be confiscated and passed into the main office where it can be collected at the end of the school day.
- If a phone is confiscated repeatedly it may be kept for longer periods. Parents / carers will be informed.
- In the case of an emergency where parents need to contact children urgently, they should contact the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.
- The school has the lawful right to search the content of a mobile phone and other electronic devices on its premises without consent from the pupil or parents. For more information about staff searching powers please see the school's behaviour policy.

## 2 Responsibility for mobile phones

School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile devices. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile devices are properly insured.

The Headteacher's decision on all matters relating to mobile communication is final