



Blackminster Middle School

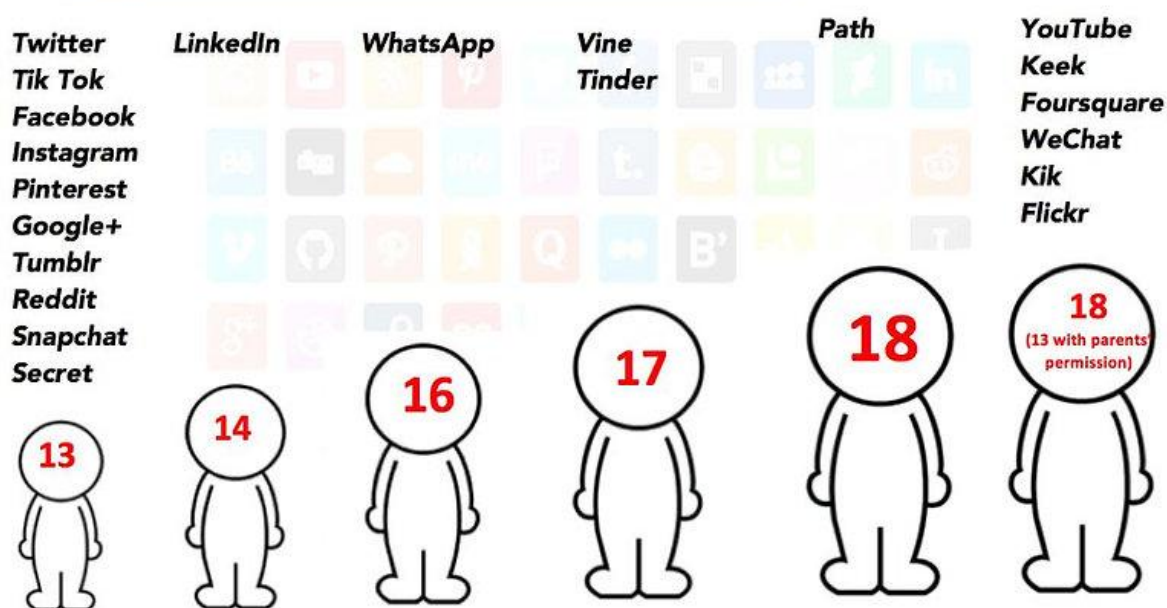
Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy 2026 - 27

Mobile phones are part of modern society and the majority of students will now own a mobile phone. We understand that for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone in order to contact parents/carers after school/before school. However, mobile phones can lead to several problems in school, for example bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate web usage.

As a school we strongly encourage our students to talk to each other and develop friendship groups at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones. As a result, the use of mobile phones during school hours is completely forbidden, and students found using their mobile phone during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

It is parents' responsibility to monitor the apps and communication tools used on their child's phone. Please also note that mobile phone use outside school hours remains the responsibility of parents and carers.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms



Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and new apps frequently become available. The above guidance is based on the age limits suggested by the developers themselves and can be found in their individual Terms and Conditions.

Purpose

1. To clarify the school position on mobile phones.
2. To ensure that staff, students and parents are fully conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
3. To support our behaviour management policy, which aims for outstanding behaviour and safety of students across the school.

4. To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised

If a mobile phone or electronic device is brought into school, it is assumed that the user has understood and agreed to the following guidelines:

1. During morning tutor time (8.25-8.40am) your child will hand their phone in to be locked away for the school day. The process involves them being kept in a tray with individualised, named spaces for each mobile phone. The phone is kept in a locked cabinet in the main office for the rest of the day. At the end of the day (2.50pm) the tray is returned to the class teacher who then distributes the phones to each child.

2. Any student who does not hand their phone in and is then seen using their mobile phone during school hours which are 8.25am – 3.00pm or when they are still on school grounds, will have their phone confiscated.

3. This includes the use of 'Smart' or Apple watches – the use of these is not allowed as they are effectively mobile phones and will be treated as such. However, these do not have to be handed in.

4. Confiscated phones must be taken to the receptionist by a teacher or TA to the front office where the phone will be secured in a locked cupboard.

5. After the first confiscation students will be able allowed to collect their phone at the end of the day, after 3.00pm. A text will be sent home to inform parents of the first confiscation.

6. Parents will be required to collect the mobile phone following the second and any subsequent confiscations and the student will be banned from bringing their phone into school for a fixed period to be determined by the Headteacher or Assistant Headteachers.

7. If students need to contact home during the school day, then they can do so through the office. Parents/carers must not expect to be able to contact students through their mobile phone during school hours. Messages must be passed via reception.

8. Any instances of students having their phones confiscated will see the incident recorded on Bromcom and could lead to further sanctions.

9. Students must not use their phone to listen to music if they are cycling to school. Students should also be mindful of traffic and dangerous situations if using their phone when walking to and from school.

10. Mobile phones may only ever be used during the school day with the permission of the member of staff in charge of the activity for which the phone is required. School trips, discos etc. are considered to be school time and mobile phones and electronic device usage or otherwise will be at the discretion of the teacher in charge.

11. Students must not take pictures or videos or voice recordings of other students or staff during times when the use of mobiles/electronic devices has been permitted, without express permission from staff.

12. Failure to hand over a mobile phone or electronic device when requested will result in a serious sanction, possibly a fixed term exclusion.

13. The mobile phone policy will be explained to students and the policy will be placed on the school website for parents/carers to access.

The mobile phone or electronic device is solely the responsibility of the owner at all times and the school accepts no responsibility at any time for loss or damage to mobile phones or electronic devices. Under the Malicious Communications Act, parents and carers are responsible for any issues arising from the use of the phone by a minor.