

GFM Mobile Phone Policy



Mission Statement:
Creating tomorrow's successful and caring citizens today.

Policy Updated By	Latest Publish Date	Monitoring Cycle
Akram Tarik	January 2023	Annually

Schedule for Development / Monitoring / Review

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on:	January 2023
The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the:	Principal and Senior Leadership Team
The Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments. The next anticipated review date will be:	January 2024
Should serious incidents take place, the following external persons/agencies should be informed:	Akram Tarik (Principal) and in his absence Jeremy Hallum (Vice Principal)

This policy is applied at GFM alongside our school's vision, mission and values. Interwoven with the principles of High Performance Learning; values, attitudes, attributes and A.C.P. Characteristics.

GEMS Founders School Al Mizhar recognizes that practices around the use of mobile phones and other devices are changing, and students are allowed to bring mobile phones into school for the express purposes of educational use, or for safety, security and emergency use when in transit to or from school.

1. All mobile phones are brought to school at the student's own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage whilst on school grounds or on school sponsored trips.
2. Students are required to switch off their devices as they enter the school gates each morning and keep them switched off and in their bags until the end of the school day at 3pm. ***If a mobile phone is visible and/or in your pocket, it will be confiscated.***

Vision

'At GFM we empower students to have the heart to celebrate uniqueness and the mind to be innovative, creative problem solvers, bringing a positive change to the world in which we live.'

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3. Phones **must be switched off** (not just silenced) **and in their bags at all times**. Any phone which rings, vibrates or is seen throughout the day will be confiscated. This will be given to Head of Year / Phase Leader for collection by student at the end of the second day in the first instance.
4. Students seen using their mobile phone during the school day without permission from a teacher will have the phone confiscated. ***This will be returned to the student the following school day at the end of the day*** by the Head of Year / Phase Leader. It will be locked overnight in the Head of Year / Phase Leader office.
5. Students who repeat the offence will have their phone confiscated again. This time the phone will ***only be made available*** for collection for ***when parents arrange a meeting to come and collect it***. The student will also receive a C1 after school detention.
6. A third offence will mean the loss of the privilege of being able to bring a mobile phone to school. A meeting will be held with parents to discuss future conduct and the mobile phone returned to parents at that point.
7. Students should never use the mobile inside the school building **even after 3pm**. If students wish to use mobile phones on the school premises, **after 3 pm**, they must do so in the designated areas; secondary entrance, the main school reception, Muga or the astro turf.
8. Parents must not contact students directly on their mobile phone between the time they enter the school gates in the morning and 3pm. In the event of an emergency, parents must contact Reception who will then contact the student. If students need to pass an emergency message to parents, they will be allowed to do so from Reception or from the head of Years' office.
9. Any transmission deemed vulgar, obscene, derogatory or defamatory, sent via SMS, Instagram, Skype, WhatsApp, SnapChat, Facebook, Twitter or other electronic means, will result in confiscation and a loss of mobile phone privileges completely. Such behaviour will also be dealt with via the GFM Behavior Policy and repeated offenses may result in suspension, and, ultimately, expulsion.
10. School or any member of staff is not responsible in any way, shape or form for any communication or post on social media conducted through a child's mobile device during school hours or home time.
11. All students must abide by all school policies involving the use of mobile phones and digital devices and UAE Law.

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Please read this policy alongside:

Anti-Bullying Policy, Inclusion Policy, Malpractice and Plagiarism Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Zero Tolerance Policy, Parent & Student Cybersecurity Guide, Filtering Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Bring Your Own Device Policy, Curriculum Policy, Data Protection Guidance, Code of Conduct, Audio Video Conferencing Security Guide for Teachers, Student Password Policy, Remote Learning & Safeguarding Policy, Guidance for Safer Working Practice, IT Online Security Guidance for Parents, Safeguarding and Inclusion Guidance during Remote Learning, Mobile Phone Policy, Social Media Policy, Curriculum Policy and Learning & Teaching Policy

Signed.....

Date *March 2023*

Principal/CEO

Policy review date: January 2024

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