



THE ENGLISH SCHOOL OF KYRENIA

an exceptional school

Mobile Devices Policy 2024-25

Whilst technology and mobile devices have useful purposes in education and life, they are also increasingly recognised around the world as potentially harmful if used inappropriately or for too long. The improper use of certain social media platforms and group chats are in some cases harming relationships among children and teenagers and having a worrying impact on the social anxiety, stress and the academic performance of the students who are involved.

At ESK, we provide students with PSHE sessions during the academic year in order to support, explain and encourage mature exploration of the benefits, as well as the potential drawbacks, of using mobile devices. Such sessions highlight that the *recommended daily use of mobile phones, gaming and social media for non-educational purposes should not exceed more than 1 hour per day (maximum)*. Even more importantly, such use must be under the supervision of parents and guardians to ensure that children do not have access to inappropriate content.

ESK has a zero-tolerance approach to the use of mobile devices and social media in any socially negative way, not least when relating to school and school friends. Our Secondary School policy is very clear: No unauthorised use of personal mobile devices during school and on school premises.

Students in Years 7 to 11 are not permitted to bring mobile phones, laptops, electronic tablets, smart watches, or any other mobile devices to school. Students in Years 12 and 13 are only permitted non-disruptive use of such devices in the 6th Form Centre and strictly in compliance with the ESK IT acceptable use policy, and as advised by the Key Stage Coordinator. Breach of these conditions will lead to disciplinary procedures.¹

Please note, parents and students will always be able to contact each other during school hours when necessary. If parents need to reach their child, this can be done through Ms Verda Ozatach, our Secondary Administrator on 0392 444 0375 (Ex.2301) or vg.ozatach@englishschoolkyrenia.org. If students need to contact parents, they can make phone calls during break, lunch or after school through Ms Ozatach, or Ms Hatice Vudali at the main school reception. For academic research, under supervision of teachers, students may use the media suite in the library, the ICT suites, or school iPads as necessary. Therefore, there is ordinarily no need for any child to use mobile devices during the school day or on school premises.

If, however, you feel that your son/daughter in years 7 to 11 has *a serious and valid need* to bring a mobile/electronic device to school, please note that an explanation will need to be provided on the slip below and given in to Ms Ozatach *during the first week of school*. If the explanation is considered valid and a student is allowed to bring the mobile device to school, **it will need to be handed in at the start of every day and collected at the end of the day. No mobile devices can be carried around during the school day.**

We believe that restrictions on the use of mobile devices at school will help promote healthy and positive social behaviour and interaction amongst our students. We trust that we have your full support in our serious efforts to restrict the potential harm that can be caused by the use of such devices at school.

¹ Note: Locker searches may be carried out to ensure compliance with this measure, as well as for other security reasons.



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Explanation regarding a serious need for my son/daughter to bring his/her mobile phone to school. This form is to be duly completed, signed, and immediately returned to Ms Ozatach.

Detailed explanation

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Student's name

Class

I understand that I must hand in my phone at the start of each day and collect it at the end of each day. I undertake to use my mobile phone only and fully in accordance with ESK's IT acceptable use policy and understand that any breach of the above-listed rules will lead to disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action can include (but is not limited to) verbal sanction, confiscation of device, detention, and exclusion from school.

Student's signature

Date

Name of parent

Signature of parent

Date