

## **Frederick Gough School**

### **Mobile Phone Contract for Pupils**



As you know, in designated areas and at certain times, you are allowed to use your mobile phone in school.

This contract is intended to explain:

- why we allow mobile phones in school
- our expectations on the appropriate use of them
- the dangers of social media
- what to expect if the policy is abused

By signing this contract you are committing to our expectations as set out below and will therefore be allowed to have your mobile phone in school.

Our philosophy is that mobiles phones are now an integral part of society and we would rather educate on the appropriate use of them, rather than ban them completely.

There are several things that make Frederick Gough School a special and unique place and this is one of them. Many other schools have a line on the floor as you enter the school, past which if your mobile phone is seen it is confiscated for the rest of the day and parents to collect. This would be much easier to do so there is a huge amount of trust that this contract is based on.

#### **Our expectations on the appropriate use of your mobile phone:**

1. Mobile phones may be used during break and lunchtimes in the designated areas. These are dining areas, quad and field only.
2. Mobile phones will be 'out of sight' in all lessons unless a member of staff gives permission to use for a specific task eg scan a piece of work, google a fact, complete a quiz, use the calculator, photo a good example, revise, prepare, research, etc ....
3. If mobile phones (including smart watches) are brought into school when there is a test/exam under examination conditions, they must be handed in to the member of staff before the start of the exam.
4. You will not take photos or videos on school grounds.
5. Phones and social media apps will not be used to bully, harass or intimidate others.
6. You will not send disrespectful or inappropriate sexualised comments or make defamatory remarks about others. These are usually made intentionally to hurt, degrade or upset another person.
7. You will not send or forward sexually explicit messages, photos or videos. It is breaking the law to encourage others to take or send indecent images of someone under the age of 18. This is sexual harassment.
8. You will talk to staff first if there is a problem, not phone parents immediately following an incident.
9. You will not use the phone to link to a speaker(s) to play music.

**There are valid reasons for all these expectations and you should, therefore, be able to understand why many schools decide to ban them because it would be so much easier. However, if you use your mobile phone whilst remembering our School motto “Try your best, be nice and you’ll do well” then we’ll have no issues.**

#### **If this contract is breached**

Misuse of your mobile phone will be dealt with using the same principles set out in our Positive Behaviour policy - the response being proportionate to the severity of misuse.

#### **Your responsibility and agreement**

I understand that if I choose not to follow the terms of this contract, my mobile phone may be ...

- removed until the end of the lesson
- confiscated to be collected at the end of the day
- banned for a period of time as I cannot be trusted to use it appropriately in school
- reported to our PCSO if on the balance of probability I may have broken the law

Name of Student ..... Form .....

Student signature ..... Date.....

Thank you for your cooperation.

We know that the overwhelming majority of you can be trusted to consistently meet our expectations on the appropriate use of mobile phones in school.

**Please sign and hand this form back to your form tutor.**