

Phone Free School Policy

Version Date	Date of next review
April 2025	April 2026

1. Philosophy

- 1.1. Technology has undoubtedly changed the landscape of parenting and education. It has created many opportunities, as well as unprecedented challenges for parents and educators.
- 1.2. Research has shown that implementing a phone-free policy in schools can offer several benefits that can contribute to a more focused and productive learning environment along with improving student wellbeing. This is about changing ideas and attachment to smartphones
- 1.3. Phone pouches are a lockable system that students use to enable a school environment which has minimised distraction, enhanced focus and engagement and improved social interaction.

2. National Guidance

- 2.1. Individual countries or jurisdictions are increasingly calling for phone mandates, such as the Ministry for Education and Higher Education in Qatar.
- 2.2. Similar mandates are recommended to global schools

3. Managing devices whilst on school premises

- 3.1. Staff – mobile phones should not be used at any time when a member of staff is directly or indirectly in contact with students. This includes, but is not limited to lessons, duties and transitions. Exceptions to this are mandated by each school. Examples could include for marketing, school trips and emergency use on school site.
- 3.2. Parents & visitors – should be discouraged from using mobile phones on-site.
- 3.3. For Students -
 - 3.3.1. All smart devices, including watches, must be placed in airplane mode and secured in the pouch before entering the school premises and show this to staff on entering the campus.
 - 3.3.2. Pouches are kept secure in the possession of the student, usually in the students backpack or locker.
Students will have a school device which can provide online access for learning through a secure connection to the school Wi-Fi. No other device or hotspot is permitted.
 - 3.3.3. Students will unlock their phone only when leaving the school premises. Several unlocking stations will be available at the school exits. One will also be external to school campus to allow for a student to return out of hours if required.

4. Emergency Protocols

- 4.1. In cases of a parent needing to contact their child in an emergency they are to contact the appropriate office.

- 4.2. Artemis schools must ensure that the published contact number is manned at all times during the school day.

5. Management without devices

- 5.1. We encourage student to use non-smart watches, school clocks and school bells to help manage time. They can also ask staff to help.
- 5.2. Where students need to access school software during the day they will be able to do so on their school device

6. Policy enforcement and exceptions to unlocking during the school day

- 6.1. Damage to a pouch or misuse of this policy will result in disciplinary actions in line with the school behaviour policy. Costs for a replacement pouch will be met by the parents.
- 6.2. If a student has a medical device that requires connection to a device, Individual arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with medical certification and advice.

7. Parental Support

- 7.1. Parental Support is important to ensure that every student bring their pouch into school daily and adheres to the phone free school philosophy, for the benefit of all students and members of the school community.

Related Policies and Documents

ICT Acceptable use policy

Acceptable Use Agreement

Behaviour For Learning Policy