



KNES Mobile Phone & Smart Technology Policy

Policy: Use of mobile phones and Smart technology devices i.e. (Smart Watches) by students

Kuwait National English School is determined to prohibit the use of mobile phones or smart technologies throughout the school day – not only during lessons but break and lunchtimes as well.

Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

KNES believes it can help children and young people develop these habits, which will in turn help them thrive outside of school

The school recognises that parents/carers in the community feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication to home. This helps with safeguarding and child protection especially before and after school hours. KNES supports this approach wholeheartedly. To that end, the school has adopted the following mobile phone best use policy:

- Children are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety at all times;
- Children must not use a mobile device, smart watch or electronic device including

headphones anywhere in school during the school day, except under the specific direction of a teacher. For the purposes of this policy, the ***school day begins the moment the children enters the school gate and ends once the children exits the school gate.*** *(An exemption to this rule applies where a student requires access to smart technology to monitor and assist in medical conditions. The School Social worker must be made aware of these exemptions by the parents in writing)*

- If a child brings their phone to the school, then on arrival it **MUST** be switched off and kept out of sight, for example in a bag or locker. It should not be seen or heard (including vibrate) throughout the school day;
- The phone can be switched back on upon leaving the school site. Not before and not during any period of social time (break or lunch);
- Any child found using or known to have used their phone during the school day will have the phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day or following day if the situation warrants via the School Social Worker. Parents will be informed via the Social Worker. Children will be asked to sign for their phone upon return.
- If the child is a repeat offender (2nd time) , the school will request a parent/carer to come in and collect the phone from the school;
- Any refusal to hand a phone over to members of staff will result in a follow up sanction in line with the school's Behaviour & Rewards Policy. This would constitute the refusal of a reasonable request by a member of staff.

Designated areas:

The Headteacher reserves the right to allow phones in selected areas given individual circumstances.

Contacting Children and Parents/Carers

In non-urgent situations, parents wishing to contact their child during the school day should ring the school. We have a well-established and efficient system for getting messages to children and pastoral support if it is needed.

Mobile Phone Illicit Use

Children who need to contact parents in an emergency should speak to the School Social Worker who will make a phone available.

Sanctions

- If a phone is seen by a member of staff it will be confiscated by them. Staff are permitted to confiscate phones from children in order to support school policies.
- Once confiscated, this will be placed with the School Social Worker where the child will be allowed to sign for and collect it at the end of the day.
- If we have reason to believe the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury, staff have the power to search children's phones, as set out in this policy on searching, screening and confiscation.

This will always be done by a member of the SLT or pastoral team.

- Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

- As most of the cyber bullying events take place outside of school, parents / guardians need to understand their liability in the prevention of such activities. As your child is underage it is the parents/ guardians who are responsible for the online communications.
- Parents / Guardians should also be aware that it is illegal for any child under the age of 13 to have a social media account. This includes but is not limited to Instagram, Snapchat, Tick Tok, WhatsApp as well as any other Social Media communication. If the child has one of these accounts they did so by fraudulent misrepresentation when opening the account by lying about their age. Again, this liability falls on the parent / guardian and is fully their responsibility along with any misuse of the Social Media communication.
- Parents should also understand that under local law, Parents are responsible for any activities their child participates in online.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or any bias.
- Any negative posts or texts which harm the reputation of a student, staff member or the school itself.
- By posting personal information (pictures , names or other identifying information) is illegal and subject to criminal and civil litigation.

Mobile Phone Policy for Kuwait National English School Communication

- Parents, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

- A copy of this policy is published on the school website and in the Staff Handbook
- Parents must use either reception or Student Services as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day.

Loss, theft or damage

- Children bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are stored securely and out of sight when not in use.
- Children must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions.
- Where a mobile phone is brought into school, it is entirely at the child's and parents' own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of any phone or electronic device brought into school. Parents and Students must note that "where a teacher disciplines a pupil by confiscating an item, neither the teacher nor the school will be liable for any loss or damage to that item").
- Confiscated phones will be stored in the Social Workers Office in a secure location and must be signed out by the child or parent/carer upon return.
- Lost phones should be returned to the School Social Worker. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

Appendix A

Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Parent Agreement

As per the published School Policy on Mobile Phone and other Smart Technology devices parents are aware of and agree to the terms of the policy (On School Website and in Parents Handbook). ***Parents/ guardians are responsible for all uses of technology for any student under the age of 21 according to Kuwait Law.***

Students are allowed to bring their phones into school but must power them off before entering the school gate and are not allowed to turn them on until they leave the school gate at the end of the day.

Parents / Guardians also provide permission for Teachers or other members of staff to request to check students mobiles at anytime randomly to ensure compliance. Refusal to agree to the terms of the Policy and this agreement will lead to serious implications.

If a student is found to have a device powered on it will be confiscated and given back at the end of the day for first offence. After the first incident, parents must collect the device themselves from the school social worker. Further consequences could arise out of repeated offences and / or dishonesty.

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Parents Name: _____

Date: _____

Appendix B

Mobile Phone and Smart Technology Student Agreement

As per the published School Policy on Mobile Phone and other Smart Technology devices students are aware of and agree to the terms of the policy (On School Website and in Parents Handbook). ***Parents/ guardians are responsible for all uses of technology for any student under the age of 21 according to Kuwait Law.***

Students are allowed to bring their phones into school but must power them off before entering the school site and are not allowed to turn them on until they leave the site at the end of the day.

Students must also comply to any request from a teacher / Social Worker / or member of staff to examine their mobile devices and any time. Noncompliance will lead to serious sanctions. Refusal to agree to the terms of the Policy and this agreement will lead to immediate and serious consequences.

If a student is found to have a device powered on it will be confiscated and given back at the end of the day. After the first incident, parents must collect the device themselves from the school social worker. Further consequences could arise out of repeated offences and / or dishonesty.

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____