

DARUL ULOOM
MOBILE PHONE POLICY
September 2024



Ratified by the Trustee: 30 August 2024
Signed by the Trustee: 30 August 2024

To be reviewed: 01 September 2025

Purpose and Objectives

At Darul Uloom Islamic High School (DUIHS), we are committed to providing a safe, focused, and spiritually enriching learning environment that aligns with our Islamic ethos. We acknowledge the importance of mobile phones for emergency communication between pupils and parents/carers. However, we are equally mindful of smartphones' negative impact on students' mental health, academic performance, and moral well-being.

Informed by recent research, this policy seeks to:

1. Mitigate risks associated with excessive smartphone use, including exposure to harmful content and reduced academic focus.
2. Support parents/carers in maintaining their children's safety without compromising the school's educational environment.
3. Promote a community in which the use of technology aligns with Islamic values and respect for others.

Permitted Mobile Devices

- Pupils are allowed to bring only basic mobile phones with limited functionality (e.g., calls and text messaging only).
- Smartphones are strictly prohibited due to the risks of unregulated internet access and their potential for misuse.

Risks of Smartphones

Recent research highlights the dangers of smartphone use for children, including:

- **Mental health concerns:** Excessive smartphone use has been linked to increased anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances.
- **Academic decline:** Studies show that schools with smartphone bans experience improved student performance, with pupils achieving higher grades.
- **Exposure to inappropriate material:** Smartphones can grant access to harmful content, including violence, self-harm, and unethical material, contrary to Islamic values. These findings underline the necessity of strict regulation of mobile phone use at DUIHS.

Implementation Procedures

Storage and Usage

- Pupils bringing a permitted mobile phone must submit a signed permission form from their parent/carer to the school administrator.
- Upon arrival at school, phones must be handed to the administrator for secure storage. Phones will be returned at the end of the school day.
- In emergencies, pupils may request supervised access to their phones, or make calls through the school office under staff guidance.

Monitoring

- All phone usage during school hours will be closely supervised by designated staff to ensure adherence to school policies.

Enforcement and Consequences

Prohibited Devices

- If a pupil is found in possession of a smartphone, the device will be confiscated and handled according to the school's confiscation policy.
- Possession of a smartphone constitutes a breach of the admissions agreement. Pupils may face disciplinary action, including exclusion, and parents/carers will be required to attend a meeting with senior staff.

Transition Period

- A transition period took place for the first academic year of this policy's implementation (2022) to allow families to adjust.
- Parent conferences every term proceeding the year of implementation had heavy emphasis on the new policy.
- It is now highlighted during open days, induction and enrolment for all families to be aware.

Inspection Rights

- In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance on "Searching, Screening, and Confiscation," the school reserves the right to inspect any confiscated mobile phone if there is reason to believe it has been used for illegal or harmful purposes.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff Responsibilities

- All staff are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- Any staff member who identifies a breach must confiscate the device and report it to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Administrator's Role

- The school administrator is tasked with securely storing and managing all permitted mobile phones and facilitating their return at the end of the day.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective in fostering a safe, respectful, and Islamic learning environment.

We appreciate the cooperation of pupils, parents, and staff in adhering to this policy and supporting our efforts to provide an environment conducive to education and spiritual growth.