



Faringdon Community College

Mobile Phone Policy

Document Control			
Author	Deputy Headteacher	Approved By	LGB
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1. Policy Statement

This policy sets out the school's approach to mobile phone use by students, in line with the Department for Education's guidance on creating a mobile phone-free school environment. The aim is to foster a calm, safe and focused learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and safeguarding risks.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students enrolled at the school
- All staff, volunteers and visitors during the school day
- All school-related activities, including trips and extracurricular events

3. Rationale

The DfE guidance highlights that:

- 97% of 12-year-olds own a mobile phone
- Mobile phones are a major source of distraction and disruption in lessons
- They contribute to cyberbullying, peer pressure, and mental health concerns
- Removing phones during the school day improves wellbeing, social interaction, and academic engagement

4. Policy Aims

- To prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day
- To support safeguarding and wellbeing
- To promote face-to-face social interaction
- To ensure consistency and clarity across the school community

5. Expectations for Students

- Students must not use mobile phones during the school day, including break and lunch times.
- Staff should not see or hear students phones during the school day, including break and lunch times.

6. Exceptions

Reasonable adjustments will be made for students who:

- Require phones for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes monitoring)
- Have SEND needs or disabilities (e.g. using the phone as a translation device)
- Need access for religious reasons or home circumstances (e.g. young carers)

The above must be agreed in advance with the school's safeguarding or pastoral team.

7. Staff Responsibilities

- Staff must model appropriate phone use.
- Staff may use phones for professional purposes but should avoid personal use during directed time hours
- Staff are responsible for enforcing the FCC Mobile Phone Policy consistently and respectfully
- Staff must not plan activities where phones are needed within lessons

8. Parental Responsibilities

- Parents should avoid contacting students directly during the school day via their child's mobile phone and instead contact the school directly.
- Urgent messages must go through the school office.
- Parents are expected to support the school's mobile phone policy.

9. Sanctions for Misuse

Sanctions will be applied in line with the School's Behaviour Policy

10. Searching and Confiscation

The school reserves the right to search and confiscate mobile phones in accordance with DfE guidance (as outlined below)

a. Legal Powers to Search

- **Headteachers and authorised staff** have the statutory power to search students or their possessions **without consent** if they suspect the student has a **prohibited item**.
- Mobile phones are not automatically listed as prohibited items, but they **can be searched** if there is a **reasonable suspicion** they contain:
 - **Pornographic material**
 - **Evidence of bullying or abuse**
 - **Material that could cause harm or disruption**

b. Searching Electronic Devices

- Staff may examine data or files on a device if they believe there is a **good reason** to do so (see appendix 1)
- Staff will ask students to unlock the phone and will therefore not request or retain the password for student phones
- They may **delete data or files** if they believe it is appropriate and necessary to do so to:
 - Protect the student
 - Protect others
 - Maintain school discipline

c. Confiscation

- Schools can **confiscate mobile phones** if they are used in breach of school rules.
- Confiscated phones should be stored securely and returned according to the school's behaviour policy.

d. Safeguarding Considerations

- If a search reveals safeguarding concerns (e.g. sexting, abuse, threats), staff must follow the school's **safeguarding procedures** and may need to involve the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** or external agencies (e.g. Police).

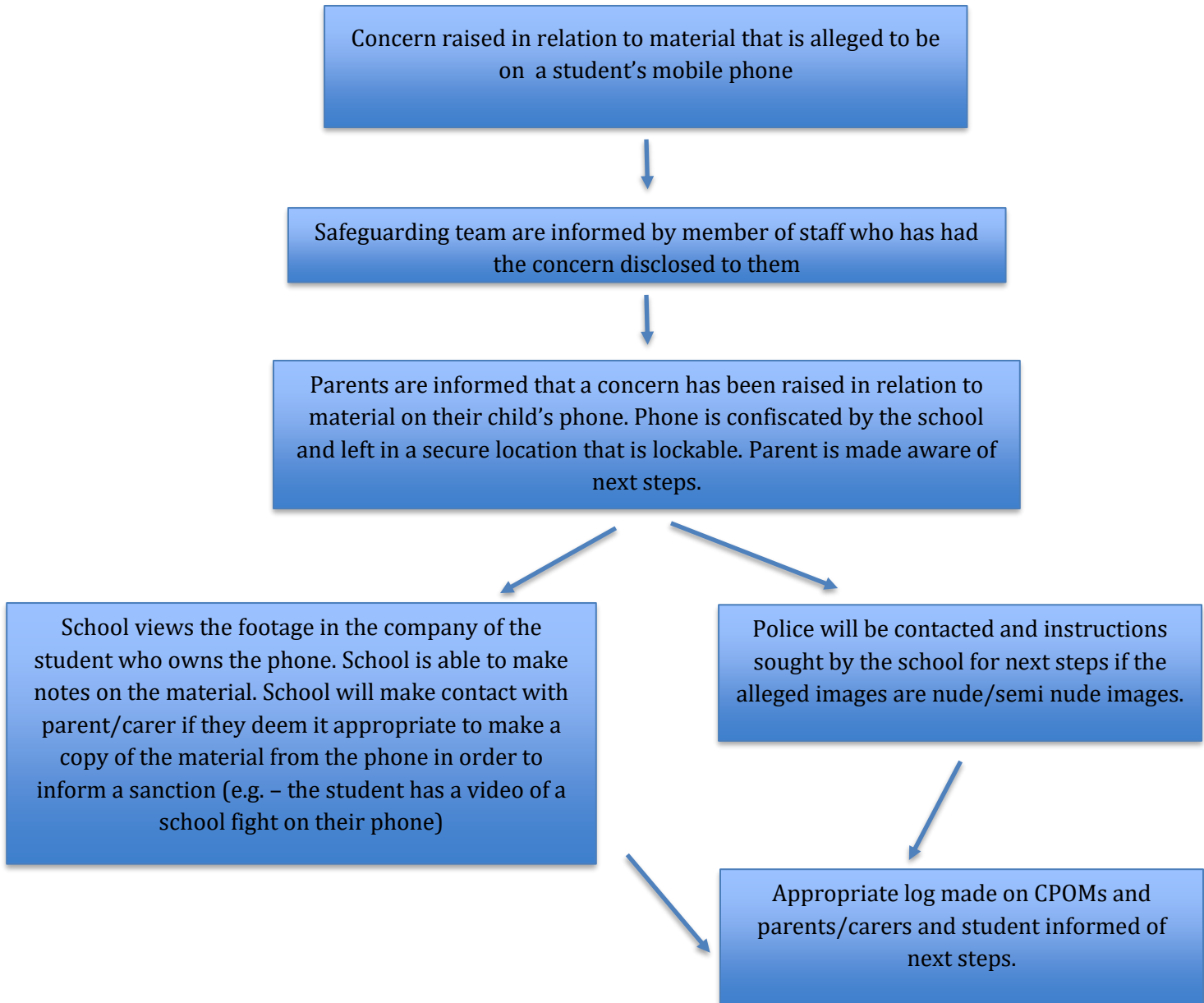
5. Parental Notification

- Schools are **not required to inform parents** before a search, but it is considered good practice to do so, especially if the phone is retained or data is deleted.

6. Reasonable Adjustments

- Searches must be conducted with **respect and sensitivity**, especially for students with **SEND**, medical needs, or other vulnerabilities.

Appendix 1 - Process followed by staff following a concern raised in relation to material on a student's phone



11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated in line with:

- Changes in DfE guidance
- Feedback from students, staff, and parents
- School safeguarding and behaviour data