



EUROPÄISCHE SCHULE FRANKFURT AM MAIN • Praunheimer Weg 126 • D-60439 Frankfurt



## No-Mobile-Phone Policy

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a focused, professional, and productive environment by restricting the use of mobile phones and similar communication devices in the school premises. The presence of mobile devices can lead to distractions, disruptions, and decreased efficiency in class. By implementing this policy, we aim to enhance concentration, promote social interaction, and safeguard student well-being.

Enforcing a no-mobile-phone rule will help protect confidentiality, prevent unauthorized recordings, and foster a culture of attentiveness and respect. Furthermore, limiting social media access during school hours alleviates pressure and unrealistic comparisons, supporting students' mental well-being. Eliminating mobile phone distractions during lessons enhances student attention and leads to improved academic outcomes. A mobile phone ban encourages face-to-face communication, fostering stronger friendships and reducing social isolation. Finally, restricting smartphone use on school grounds reduces exposure to online bullying and inappropriate digital content during school hours.

### SCOPE

Students are required to turn off their mobile phones upon entering school grounds and store them securely throughout school hours, including breaks.

A differentiated approach applies to S6 and S7 students. They may use their mobile phones only in the respective Study Room.

This policy covers all types of mobile phones and similar devices, including but not limited to:

- Smartphones
- Smartwatches with calling capabilities

- Tablets used for communication
- Bluetooth headsets and other hands-free devices
- Any other personal electronic devices capable of making or receiving calls, texts, or notifications

This policy is applicable in all areas of the school premises.

## POLICY GUIDELINES

- Mobile phones and similar communication devices must not be used during school hours.
- All devices must be switched off before entering the school.
- Calls, texting, browsing, and other mobile-related activities are prohibited.
- Smartwatches with calling functions must also be turned off and must not be used for communication purposes.
- The use of headphones or earbuds connected to mobile devices for music, calls, or any other purpose is prohibited.
- In case of emergencies, individuals may request an exception from the responsible authority to use their mobile devices within restricted areas.

## EXCEPTIONS

Certain exceptions may be granted under specific circumstances:

- **Medical and Accessibility Needs:** Students requiring the use of mobile devices for medical or accessibility purposes must obtain pre-approval by the director.
- **Emergency Situations:** In urgent situations, students may be permitted to use their mobile devices temporarily upon approval of the director or another person of authority. In such cases they can leave the class room to go to the secretariat or the pedagogical advisor to ask for assistance.
- Mobile phone use is permitted under teacher supervision for educational purposes and in emergency situations.

Requests for exceptions must be submitted in advance and approved by the director of the Secondary School.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Teachers/Pedagogical advisors:** Monitor and enforce the policy in classrooms, ensuring fairness and consistency.
- **Parents:** Discuss the importance of the No-Mobile-Phone Policy with their children and support adherence to the rules.
- **Students:** Abide by the policy and respect it.
- **School Management:** Oversee policy implementation, provide necessary resources, and communicate effectively with all stakeholders.

## EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED BEHAVIOURS

- Cyberbullying: Involvement in sharing sexist, racist, or harmful content.
- Unauthorized Photography/Recording: Capturing images or recordings without consent, particularly in sensitive areas like changing rooms.
- Inappropriate Content Sharing: Distributing harmful material via messaging platforms.
- Creation of Fake Accounts: Establishing fake profiles leading to unsafe situations.
- Academic Dishonesty: Using AI or mobile devices in the classroom or to cheat during exams.
- Classroom Distractions: Using mobile devices and unauthorized platforms for non-educational purposes during lessons.

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Supervisors, teachers and designated staff members are responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.
- Recognizing the importance of digital literacy, the European School of Frankfurt will integrate media literacy workshops, including them in the annual forward planning and allow controlled use of personal devices under teacher supervision for educational purposes.
- Violations of the no-mobile-phone policy may result in verbal or written warnings.
- Repeated non-compliance may lead to further disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension of privileges, or additional corrective measures.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR POLICY VIOLATIONS

- **First reported Offense**: Warning issued to the student.
- **Further reported Offenses**: Confiscation of the device until the end of the school day; parents/guardians may need to retrieve it from the school office. The school adheres to liability regulations regarding damage or loss of (confiscated) devices and will implement an appropriate responsibility framework including a signature-based procedure.
- **Repeated Offenses**: Involvement of parents and additional disciplinary measures in line with school regulations.

## REVIEW AND UPDATES

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Updates or modifications will be made when necessary to address evolving school needs and technological advancements.

All stakeholders will be notified of any changes to this policy in a timely manner.

## CONCLUSION

Implementing this No-Mobile-Phone Policy the European School of Frankfurt aims to enhance learning conditions, reduce cyberbullying, promote stronger social interactions, and support students' emotional well-being while ensuring the development of responsible digital habits. Through collaborative efforts among students, parents, and staff, we can cultivate a school culture that values respect, and the responsible use of technology, preparing our students both for academic as well as personal success.