

Mobile Phones & Personal Devices

Keeping our school focused, safe and connected

At DMES, we want students to be fully present during the school day — learning, participating and connecting with the people around them.

Mobile phones and personal communication devices can be a distraction to learning and can also create concerns around privacy, safeguarding and the inappropriate recording or sharing of content.

DMES therefore maintains clear expectations regarding mobile phones and personal devices, in line with applicable UAE Ministry of Education and KHDA requirements.

Mobile Phones at School

Students in **Grades 3–12 are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school.**

Where there is a genuine need for a student to bring a phone, it must remain **switched off, stored securely and out of sight throughout the school day.** It must not be used, seen or heard without the permission of an authorised member of staff.

This applies during lessons, break and lunch times, assemblies, activities and movement around the school.

Smartwatches and other personal communication devices are subject to the same expectations when being used for communication, recording or other non-approved purposes.

Photography, Video & Recording

Students must not use a personal device to photograph, film or make an audio recording of another student, member of staff or visitor without permission.

Recording or sharing images, video or audio without consent is a serious matter and may raise safeguarding and privacy concerns.

Inappropriate recording, sharing or online use of content involving members of the DMES community will be addressed in accordance with the school's behaviour and safeguarding procedures and applicable UAE requirements.

Earbuds & Headphones

Personal earbuds, AirPods and headphones should remain stored away during the school day unless their use has been specifically authorised by a teacher for an educational activity.

Violations & Consequences

The UAE Ministry of Education has established requirements concerning mobile phones in schools. Under the applicable Student Behaviour Management regulations, bringing or using a mobile phone contrary to school requirements may constitute a behavioural violation.

First violation

- The phone will be confiscated and held securely for **one month**.
- The parent/guardian will be notified.
- The incident will be recorded in accordance with the school's behaviour procedures.

Repeated violation

- The phone will be confiscated and held securely **until the end of the academic year**, in accordance with applicable regulations.
- The parent/guardian will be contacted and may be required to meet with the school.
- Further action may be taken in accordance with the school's behaviour procedures and applicable MOE/KHDA requirements.

DMES will ensure that confiscated devices are stored securely and returned in accordance with the required procedures.

Emergencies & Contacting Your Child

We understand that there may be circumstances where families feel it is necessary for a student to carry a phone, particularly before or after the school day.

During school hours, however, parents should not use a student's personal mobile phone as the means of contacting them.

If you need to contact your child urgently, please contact the school through the official school communication channels. We will ensure that the message reaches your child.

Similarly, if a student needs to contact home urgently during the school day, a member of staff will assist them.

Exceptions

Exceptions may be considered in specific circumstances, including a documented medical need or other exceptional family circumstances.

Any exception must be approved by the school in advance. An approved exception does not automatically permit the student to use the device during the school day unless this forms part of the agreed arrangement.

School Trips, Events & Activities

The same expectations apply when students are representing DMES on school trips, at events, competitions or other school activities.

Where phones or personal devices are permitted or required for a particular trip or activity, students and parents will be informed in advance.

Responsibility for Personal Devices

Any mobile phone or personal device brought to school remains the responsibility of the student and family.

DMES strongly encourages students to leave unnecessary valuable devices at home.

Working Together

Our aim is not simply to remove phones. It is to **protect learning time, reduce distractions, encourage positive interaction and maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.**

We ask parents to support these expectations by limiting unnecessary devices brought to school and by using the school's official communication channels when they need to contact their child during the school day.

At school, the focus should be on learning, participating and being present.

If a Phone is Found or Used

The UAE Ministry of Education has strengthened requirements concerning mobile phones in schools. Under the relevant Student Behaviour Management regulations, bringing a mobile phone onto school premises or misusing communication devices may constitute a behavioural violation.

Where the applicable Ministry regulations require confiscation, the following measures may apply:

First offence: The mobile phone may be confiscated and retained for **one month**, with the parent/guardian informed.

Repeated offence: The mobile phone may be confiscated and retained **until the end of the academic year**, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Parents may be required to attend the school and acknowledge the violation and confiscation/return of the device.

DMES will apply any confiscation and disciplinary measures in accordance with the regulations applicable to the student and the school at the time of the incident.