

Mobile Digital Devices Policy

Introduction

This Policy aims to regulate the use of mobile digital devices in our school during the school day (lesson time, break time, lunch time and time dedicated to extracurricular activities).

European School Alicante is based in the territory of Generalidad Valenciana. As such, when specific local rules exist related to Health, Safety and Security matters, local rules must be given priority. Generalidad Valenciana has adopted a resolution for schools as for the use of mobile devices and our school has to abide by those rules.

These measures, concerning the regulation of mobile digital devices, are aimed at supporting the authority of school staff and ensuring decision-making based on the principles of necessity, proportionality, and efficiency.

1. Mobile phones

The use of mobile phones by students will only be permitted in our school under the following exceptions:

- the Director may authorise the use of mobile phones only for specific individual health reasons.¹
- the Director will evaluate any other request for duly justified reasons and will decide on each individual request, ensuring decision-making based on the principles of necessity, proportionality, and efficiency.²

Students and families are warmly invited to leave the mobile phone of the student at home.

Should families or adult students decide that the student bring her/his mobile phone at school, the mobile phone will have to be switched off during the whole school day (lesson time, break time, lunch time and time dedicated to extracurricular activities) and always kept secured in their bag, their pocket or their locker. Holding a switched off mobile phone has no meaning. Pupils found holding their switched off mobile phone will be invited to store it.

Keeping a mobile phone operational (switched on) will be interpreted as use.

In the event of the detection of a non-compliance with the conditions of use, the mobile phone will be temporary confiscated and kept by the school. Before its removal, school staff must ensure that the student turns off the mobile phone, to guarantee confidentiality. A note of the event will be logged in the student's file.

¹ Adult students or legal representatives of a minor student will need to introduce a request to the Director, joining evidence which might justify the exception. The exception will enter into force only once the Director will have approved it.

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After being confiscated, the mobile phone can be collected back:

- by the adult student, immediately at the end of the day or as from 8:45 of the following school day
- by a legal representative of the minor student, from 8:45 of the following school day.

Starting from the second non-compliance by the same student, the school can decide to apply other disciplinary measures, in line with the General Rules of the European Schools.

2. MOBILE DIGITAL DEVICES OTHER THAN MOBILE PHONES

For didactic activities that require the use of other mobile digital devices (MDD), only **tablets or laptops** without SIM cards are accepted. The use of **any other mobile digital device is forbidden** in the school (smart watch, game, smart band, smart ring, smart glass or head-mounted display, digital camera, game console, media player, etc.).

2.1 Inside classrooms

The condition for the use of MDD inside classrooms are:

- didactic activities that require the use of MDD must be included in the educational planning of the teacher for the corresponding class
- students will make use of their own MDD (mobile phones are anyway excluded)
- the use of MDD will only occur upon request from the teacher and under her/his supervision
- once the activity is finished, teaching staff must ensure that the digital devices are turned off.

2.2 Outside classrooms

Outside classrooms, use of MDD (mobile phones excluded) by students will only be possible **only for school related activities** and as follows:

For the pupils in S1-S5:

- in the Study Rooms, upon prior approval and under the supervision of the Pedagogical Advisors
- in the Library, upon prior approval and under the supervision of the Librarian

For the students in S6-7:

- as for the students in S1-S5
- outdoor (always and only for school related activities)

Awareness, Training and Entry into Force

The school will promote measures of awareness and training, aimed at the students, regarding the responsible and safe use of mobile phones and other digital devices and the risks of the internet and social networks.

This Policy will gradually enter into force as from September 1st 2024 and will be updated when required.