



## DUBAI GEM PRIVATE SCHOOL

*STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE*

### Mobile Phone Policy– 2025-2026



Written by:	Ms. Parie Stoneman	Last Review:	October 2025
Position:	Principal	Next Review Date:	October 2026

## **Purpose**

Dubai Gem Private School is committed to safeguarding the well-being, safety, and privacy of all students. In line with KHDA directives and UAE laws on privacy and digital protection, the school prohibits students from bringing mobile phones or personal electronic communication devices onto school premises or during school-related activities, including local and overseas trips.

This policy aims to:

- Maintain a safe and focused learning environment.
- Protect students from cyberbullying, online exposure, and digital distractions.
- Ensure full compliance with UAE laws on digital conduct and student protection.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all students from FS1 to Year 13, including those participating in school trips, after-school clubs, or extracurricular activities organised under Dubai Gem Private School.

## **Policy Guidelines**

### 1. Prohibition of Mobile Phones

Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones or smart devices (including smartwatches with communication features) to school. This applies to all school premises, transport services, and off-site activities, including educational visits, excursions, and residential trips.

### 2. Emergency Communication

In cases of urgent or unforeseen circumstances, communication between parents and students will occur through the school reception, clinic, or administration office. Parents are encouraged to keep their contact details updated to ensure prompt communication.

### 3. Rationale

The policy is based on research indicating that mobile phones in schools contribute to:

- Distraction from learning and reduced academic focus.
- Cyberbullying and social pressure via social media use.
- Violation of privacy through unauthorised photography or recording.
- Increased screen time is negatively impacting wellbeing and mental health.

#### 4. Consequences for Breach

Any student found in possession of a mobile phone will have the device confiscated immediately. The device will only be returned to a parent or guardian after a formal meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Repeated offences will result in disciplinary action, in line with the school's Behaviour and Conduct Policy.

#### 5. Special Circumstances

Exceptions may be made only for medical or special educational needs, subject to written approval from the Principal and Inclusion Department. In such cases, the device must remain deposited at the school office during the day and be used strictly under supervision.

##### **Trips and Off-Campus Activities**

Students are not allowed to carry mobile phones during any school trips, excursions, or camps. Staff accompanying students will have school phones for emergency communication with parents or guardians. This measure ensures that students stay fully engaged, safe, and protected digitally throughout the activity.

#### **Parental Partnership**

Parents are expected to:

- Support the school's stance on limiting digital distractions.
- Reinforce responsible technology use at home.
- Respect the school's communication procedures during the school day.

The school appreciates parental cooperation in helping promote a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment for all students.

#### **Review and Compliance**

This policy will be reviewed annually or as directed by KHDA updates or changes in UAE regulations. It forms part of the school's wider Child Protection, Safeguarding, and Behaviour policies.