



Embassy International School, ul. Edmunda Biernackiego 10, 30-043 Kraków, Poland
phone: +48 786 947 320, email: office@embassyschool.pl, www.embassyschool.pl

Mobile phone policy

Mobile phones are inanimate objects, which may be used for good or evil.

The school position is that pupils should learn to use mobile phones in positive ways, as tools which facilitate communication and access to information.

The school believes that phones are not needed in Primary school. Therefore, phones will not be permitted in classrooms, unless a teacher has a very specific reason to request them for a fixed and defined time/lesson. If a primary school aged pupil has a phone for other safety (tracking) reasons then the phone should be in their school bag in the course of the day and only transferred to the child's pockets at the end of the day. The school must be informed **in writing** of this request and a **reason given** for the request.

In Secondary, phones can be used for legitimate educational purposes, as defined by individual teachers during tasks.

Phone use at break time is not recommended. However, it will not be banned. If a pupil has a mobile phone out in break time and is using it for purposes of bringing people together this is acceptable. If they are using a mobile phone to separate themselves or others from the group then firstly staff will speak to them, and other pupils are also expected to bring this person into social contact in the spirit of the behaviour policy and contributing in this way to school culture. Avoiding social contact, either through use of mobile phones, or other means will be viewed as a social-educational challenge to be addressed and persistent pupils in this regard can expect to be referred for psychological support. Parents will be informed if a pupil is found to be making inappropriate use of mobile phones on a regular and repeated basis, and parents are asked to address this matter in the first instance.

Mobile phones and trips

Mobile phones can be used to contribute to safety and in this regard are permitted on trips for the purpose of taking local photographs or making other records at times when it is safe to do so. Mobile phones can also be used to help locate children should they be lost or nervous and a variety of applications may be helpful when in unfamiliar situations. However, use of the phone is subject to teacher permission and under no circumstances should mobile phone use contribute to a compromise of safety.

Lindsay Davidson
Head of School
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