

Digital Learning Access: Smartphones (updated September 2019)

Touchstones

- Be inspired
- Take care, be smart, be safe
- Show respect

Purpose

At ISL Qatar, we recognise that learning and teaching can be enhanced by the use of mobile technology. We use learning technologies to support the development of essential skills, knowledge and behaviours that students will need as responsible citizens in the global community, therefore we encourage students to use mobile technology in school to inspire their learning. Indeed our BYOD programme (see the broader BYOD policy) insists that secondary students bring an internet-enabled device to school. The BYOD policy is designed to help students respond to the challenges and demands of a modern, technological society. Smart use of technology can be a great tool to support learning but we also need to take care that it does not become a distraction from learning. Through intelligent and careful use of technology students develop essential skills such as collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking to prepare them for a complex and competitive world. In line with our BYOD policy, we expect students to observe our advice about being respectful towards oneself and others; and about staying safe while using digital devices and while online.

Smartphones

Our BYOD policy states that secondary students must bring a laptop or equivalent device to school every day. Only in special circumstances in the High School (G9-G12), will we allow students to use smartphones as a partial replacement for this, however we do expect parents to provide other more versatile and powerful mobile devices. In certain cases, for certain tasks in the High School, teachers may request that students use a smartphone. The advice and regulations below are designed to ensure that students, and others, benefit from the use of mobile technology but also help to avoid the misuse and potential distractions of smartphones. We also want to minimise disruption to lessons, make students aware of the need to balance 'screen-time' with face-to-face communication, and to develop a responsible approach to the use of technology and smartphones in particular.

Safety and security

We recommend that students do not routinely bring smartphones to school. If a student does bring a smartphone to school, they must conform to the regulations below and in particular, **the school will not accept responsibility for their safety and care, even if confiscated or stored by a member of staff.** Parents/carers should be aware that, if their child brings a smartphone to school, the device is the sole responsibility of the student and must be stored at the owner's risk. The school will not accept responsibility for replacing a lost, damaged or stolen smartphone, or any cost incurred due to its use. While the school will help students identify how to keep smartphones secure, students have the ultimate responsibility for keeping their smartphones safe and secure. The school has only limited resources to locate allegedly lost or stolen smartphones.

In school

If a student chooses to bring a smartphone to school, it is on the understanding that they follow the regulations below:

High School

- Smartphones may only be used as an internet-enabled device after permission has been granted by a teacher/supervisor. In some cases, a teacher/supervisor may request that students use a smartphone for a particular task.
- Smartphones may not be used to disrupt the educational environment or violate the rights of others. Using a smartphone to cheat, violate school conduct rules, harass/bully others, or for unlawful purposes will lead to disciplinary action.
- The school's internet access is limited and is shared by everyone in school. Students should not use smartphones to download music, videos or apps, unless authorized by a teacher. Students should close internet tabs and applications when not in use.
- The security of the smartphone will remain the student's responsibility throughout the entire school day, including breaks and PE lessons.
- The school reserves the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks or on student devices in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property.
- Use of mobile technology in school, and of the school network, is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be removed if it is misused.

In the classroom/learning spaces

If a teacher/supervisor has not granted permission to use a smartphone, or has not requested students to use a smartphone, then:

- Smartphones must be placed on 'silent mode' and kept out of sight in the student's bag or stored in the place provided by the teacher/supervisor. The teacher/supervisor has the right, at any time, to ask for any smartphone to be stored in a particular place.
- During lessons, smartphones may not be used to use messaging services; to listen to music; or to watch videos unless specific permission has been given by a teacher/supervisor. In this case, the teacher/supervisor has the right to read, listen to, or see any material being used by the student on their smartphone during lessons.
- Smartphones must not be used to take photographs or videos of any individual or group without their permission. If a teacher/supervisor suspects this has happened, they have the right to demand that the student shows them such photographs or videos and demand that they be deleted from the smartphone.

Middle School

- Smartphones may not be used during the school day (07.30 until 14.25)
- Smartphones must be placed on 'silent mode' and kept out of sight in the student's bag. Smartphones may not be used to disrupt the educational environment or violate the rights of others. Using a smartphone to cheat, violate school conduct rules, harass/bully others, or for unlawful purposes will lead to disciplinary action.
- The security of the smartphone will remain the student's responsibility throughout the entire school day, including breaks and PE lessons.
- The school reserves the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's

information networks or on student devices in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property.

- Use of mobile technology in school, and of the school network, is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be removed if it is misused.

Confiscation procedure

If there is an infringement of the regulations above, then a teacher/supervisor has the absolute right to confiscate a student's smartphone and return it to the student at the end of a lesson, or at the end of the school day. Even while in the possession of the teacher/supervisor, the school will not accept responsibility for replacing a lost, damaged or stolen smartphone, or any cost incurred due to its use.