



Mobile Device Policy

European School of Varese

UPDATE: September 2025

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Mobile Device

For the purposes of this regulation, *mobile device* refers to any portable electronic device, including but not limited to mobile phones, smartphones, smartwatches, handheld or console gaming devices, digital notebooks, tablets (including paper tablets), MP3/MP4 players, computers, e-readers, walkie-talkies, tracking devices (e.g., AirTags), and headphones.

Policy Statement

The school is a community environment in which direct, in-person social interaction is actively encouraged. Consequently, using smartphones and other personal electronic devices is not permitted. **This means that during class time, studio time, or breaktime, pupils are not allowed to access social media, to play video games, or to engage in screen-based activities. No use of mobile phones during the school day is tolerated.**

Legal Reference

This policy is in accordance with Italian regulations, which, as of 2024, establish clear and stringent restrictions on the use of such devices in educational settings. Please see the following sections which provide references to the relevant legal framework.

NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

As mentioned above, this policy is in line with the provisions of *Nota Ministeriale n. 5274 dell'11 luglio 2024*, which regulates the use of mobile phones in the Nursery, Primary and Scuola Media. The note specifies: *“si dispone il divieto di utilizzo in classe del telefono cellulare anche a fini educativi e didattici, salvo i casi in cui lo stesso sia previsto dal Piano Educativo Personalizzato come supporto rispettivamente agli alunni con disabilità o con disturbi specifici di apprendimento ovvero per documentate ed oggettive condizioni personali. Potranno invece essere utilizzati per motivi didattici altri dispositivi digitali, quali pc e tablet sotto la guida dei docenti.....”*.

In accordance with these provisions, ESV will implement the following rules for the pupils attending the N/P Cycles:

- Pupils in Nursery and Primary School are **not permitted to bring mobile phones or other personal electronic devices to school**.
- If, for safety reasons, **parents** consider it necessary for their child to carry a mobile phone for use before or after school hours (e.g., during the journey to and from school), they **must notify the school in advance**.
- In all cases, mobile phones must remain switched off and stored inside the pupil's schoolbag, not merely set to silent mode.
- Any mobile phone or personal electronic device used by a pupil during the school day will be **confiscated and returned in person to the parents** by appointment with the N/P management.
- The school accepts **no responsibility** for the loss, theft, or damage of mobile phones or other personal electronic devices brought onto school premises or during school-related activities.
- The school will continue to facilitate necessary communication between families and their children through the School Office (Secretary) and the Deputy Director of N/P Cycles' Office, especially in urgent or serious situations.
- For mobile phone **use on the school bus or during after-school activities**, parents should consult the referent of Cooperativa Trasporti and the AGSEV representative responsible for organising after-school activities.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

As the school is an educational community where real social interaction must be nurtured, using smartphones and other personal electronic devices is not permitted. This means that **during studio time or breaktime, pupils will not access social media, video games, or engage in any screen-based activities. No use of mobile phones during the school day is tolerated.** We kindly ask parents not to contact their children directly during the school day. Timetables are visible on SMS.

The aim of this policy is to improve student focus, reduce distractions, and support a safe and respectful learning environment. Banning student mobile phone possession during school hours complies with Italian law in this area (Ordinanza Ministeriale n. 0003392 16/6/25) which integrates Nota Ministeriale n. 5274 11/7/24.

Where possible, mobile phones, earpods, headphones, and similar personal electronic devices should be left at home. **This does not apply to devices permitted through certified accommodations or under the BYOD scheme (S5-S7).**

When it is not possible to leave devices at home, they must be switched off and stored in the locker for the duration of the school day, with no exceptions. On entering or departing the school, they must be switched off and carried in the school bag (never held). **The school accepts no responsibility for smartphones or other electronic devices pupils bring to school or during school related activities which includes loss, theft or damage.**

Basic principles for the use of smartphones /electronic devices:

Rules to follow?

No mobile phones/earpods/ headphones/similar devices can be used on school premises, at any point during the school day. This includes upon entering or leaving the school premises.

***It is strictly prohibited at all times for students to video record, take, distribute or share pictures on school premises!** The only exceptions are for students with special educational needs that have this included in their Individual Educational Plan.

In case of non-respect of this policy, the following measures will be taken:

Personal device issues	Consequences**
	<i>Confiscated phones will be collected in the office of the level's Pedagogical adviser</i>
1. Use of phone or earpods or any electrical device not allowed.	1x = Phone confiscated + parents pick up the phone 2x = Phone confiscated + parents pick up the phone + detention 3x = Phone confiscated + parents pick up the phone + detention 4x = Phone confiscated + parents pick up the phone + suspension
2. Repetitive use of phone/device/headphones.	Phone confiscated (duration – to be decided) + parents pick up the phone + official school detention
3. Taking pictures/selfies on school premises -Recording/Filming on school premises <i>with</i> the knowledge of people involved	Rule 1 applies + pupil copies the smartphone policy.
4. Recording/Filming on school premises <i>without</i> the knowledge of people involved. - Hate speech. - Cyberbullying. - Not adhering to the ES ICT charter.	Depending on the situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal exclusion (with reflective tasks) • Official warning letter • Discipline Council
5. Misuse of school property using pictures/recording material on social media	Two detentions with reflective tasks
6. Cyberbullying on social media (no school-related platforms)	The victim's parents are advised to file a complaint at the police station, while the student receives internal guidance, including access to the school psychologist.

** If the student and the Pedagogical Adviser miss each other at the scheduled time the phone was to be picked up, the Pedagogical Adviser will bring the phone to the Secondary School Management or School Secretary. The pupil can collect the phone at the Secondary School Secretary's office.

***If a student fails to bring their mobile phone to their Pedagogical Adviser, rule 1 will be applied.

Be wise and think twice before using your electronic device!