



Gothic Mede Academy

*Pride in ourselves, pride in our school,
pride in our community*

Executive Principal:
Mr Tom Clarke

Head of School:
Mrs Stephanie Smith

Chair of the Local Committee:
Mr Mark Greaney

Important Reminder: Electronic Device Policy at Gothic Mede

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gothic Mede, we are committed to creating a focused, safe, and social environment where your children can thrive without unnecessary distractions. As we move further into the school year, we would like to provide a clear reminder regarding our policy on electronic devices.

Our Policy

Personal electronic devices are not permitted on school grounds or during school-run events. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Mobile Phones:** Even if kept in bags, these can cause significant disruption.
- **Smartwatches:** Devices with messaging, camera, or internet capabilities.
- **Tracking Devices:** Including those with "listen-in" or two-way communication features (e.g., certain GPS watches).

Why is this policy in place?

We understand that many of these gadgets are purchased with safety and communication in mind. However, within the primary school setting, they present several challenges:

- **Social Interaction:** We want to encourage children to play, talk, and engage with one another face-to-face during breaks rather than being tethered to a screen.
- **Safeguarding & Privacy:** Many devices have integrated cameras and microphones. To protect the privacy of all students and staff, we must ensure no unauthorised photos or recordings are taken on-site.
- **Academic Focus:** Notifications and apps are designed to be "sticky" and can significantly detract from a child's ability to concentrate in the classroom.
- **Security of Property:** Electronic devices are expensive and easily damaged or lost. The school cannot take responsibility for the loss or breakage of personal tech.



Gothic Mede Academy

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School Trips and Offsite Activities

This policy extends to **all school trips and offsite visits**. While we understand the instinct to want a direct line to your child while they are away, these trips are vital for building independence and resilience.

Rest assured, the focus of staff is on your child's happiness and wellbeing and, if necessary, we can initiate contact with home. If you have concerns regarding anything during a school visit, please contact the school office.

What should you do?

We ask that all devices remain at home. If a child is found with a device, it will be collected by the teacher and kept securely in the school office for a parent to collect at the end of the day.

If there is an exceptional circumstance where your child requires a phone for their journey to or from school (e.g., walking home alone), please contact the front office to arrange for the device to be handed in and stored safely during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school a focused and happy place for every child.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Clarke
Executive Principal
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