

Mobile Phone Policy

The school has decided to ban mobile phones for Primary and Secondary students up to and including Year 11.

The following rules apply to students when using their mobile phones outside of school. Both parents and pupils should be clear that misuse of mobile phones will not be tolerated. Despite the ban in school, pupils may still misuse phones outside of the school building. The following are examples of misuse but are not exclusive. 'Misuse' will be at the discretion of the Head:

- The deliberate engineering of situations where people's reactions are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience
- Bullying by text, image and email messaging
- The use of a mobile phone for 'sexting' (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)
- Pupils posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other pupils
- Pupils phoning parents immediately following an incident so that the ability of staff to deal with an incident is compromised
- Publishing photographs of vulnerable pupils, who may be on a child protection plan, where this may put them at additional risk.

Year 12 and 13 students may use mobile phones at break time and lunch time only in the 6th form areas (unless needed for study purposes). The above misuse also applies to these pupils and can result in confiscation and / or an appropriate sanction. If they do not adhere to the policy, the privilege will be revoked.

Dealing with Breaches

Misuse of the mobile phone will be dealt with using the same principles set out in the school behaviour policy, with the response being proportionate to the severity of the misuse. If a pupil is caught with a phone during the school day, a parent must then collect it. The school will keep the phone until the parent is able to collect it in person. Pupils are given detention.

Pupils are aware that serious misuse may lead to the suspension from school, communication with parents and the imposition of other sanctions up to and including exclusion from school. If the offence is serious, it will be reported to the Police.

Rules for the Acceptable Use of a Mobile Phone in School by Pupils

Pupils are not allowed to bring phones to school. If they do, they must have parental permission and a very good reason why before handing it into the Office to be locked away for the day. Pupils are also made aware that if asked to do so, content on the phone (e.g. messages, emails, pictures, videos, sound files) will be shown to a teacher.

Unacceptable use

The school will consider any of the following to be unacceptable use of the mobile phone and a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy resulting in sanctions being taken.

- Photographing or filming staff or other pupils without their knowledge or permission
- Photographing or filming in toilets, changing rooms and similar areas
- Bullying, harassing or intimidating staff or pupils by the use of text, email or multimedia messaging, sending inappropriate messages or posts to social networking or blogging sites
- Refusing to switch a phone off or handing over the phone at the request of a member of staff
- Using the mobile phone outside school hours to intimidate or upset staff and pupils will be considered a breach of these guidelines in the same way as unacceptable use which takes place in school time
- Using a mobile phone outside school hours in such a way that it undermines the stability of the school and compromises its ability to fulfil the stated aim of providing 'a clear moral and ethical lead'.

Sanctions

As stated above, mobile phones are banned in school. If a pupil has parental permission, they must hand it to the Office to be kept in a locked cupboard until the end of the day.

- If a pupil is found to have a mobile phone during school hours, it will be confiscated. The parents must collect the phone and it will automatically lead to a 3 step disciplinary procedure, ultimately being a suspension from school..
- Using a mobile phone outside school hours to intimidate or upset staff and pupils or undermine the stability of the school in any way will be considered a breach of these guidelines in the same way as unacceptable use which takes place in school time.
- Pupils should be aware that the police will be informed if there is a serious misuse of the mobile phone where criminal activity is suspected
- If a pupil commits an act which causes serious harassment, alarm or distress to another pupil or member of staff the ultimate sanction may be permanent exclusion. School will consider the impact on the victim of the act in deciding the sanction.

Confiscation Procedure

If a mobile phone is confiscated, then:

- The pupil will be informed that the phone can be collected at the end of school day *by a parent or guardian*
- The School Office will contact the parents to arrange the pickup as soon as possible
- The confiscation will be recorded and will lead to step 1 , 2 or 3 of the phone disciplinary procedure
- Step 1 - Community service

- Step 2 - Internal suspension
- Step 3 - External suspension
- School will ensure that confiscated equipment is stored in such a way that it is returned to the correct person

Where the Phone has been used for an Unacceptable Purpose

The Head or a designated staff member will ask to view files stored in confiscated equipment and if necessary, seek the cooperation of parents in deleting any files which are in clear breach of these guidelines unless they are being preserved as evidence. If required evidence of the offence or suspected offence will be preserved, preferably by confiscation of the device and keeping it secure or by taking photographs of the screen. The school will consider whether an incident should be reported to the safeguarding lead. The designated staff member should monitor repeat offences to see if there is any pattern in the perpetrator or the victim which needs further investigation.

Parents' Use of Mobile Phones on School Site

Parents are not allowed to use their mobile phones or their camera facility whilst in the school building or site. School policy on this matter will be explained to parents and placed on the school website.

During group outings nominated staff will have access to a school mobile which may be used for photographs or for contact purposes.

In the case of school productions parents / carers are permitted to take pictures of their own children in accordance with school protocols which are against the publication of any such photographs on social networking sites.

Parents should always contact the school office. Never ring students directly during school hours and students MUST ask the office to ring parents, not use their own devices.

Staff use of Personal Devices

Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile phones or devices for contacting pupils, young people or those connected with the family of the pupil. Staff will be issued a school phone where contact with pupils, parents is required, for example a mobile on school trips or staff based landline in departments or school offices.

- Mobile phones and personally owned devices will be switched to 'silent' mode and not used during teaching periods unless in emergency circumstances. They **MUST BE OUT OF SIGHT** in classrooms and the school building.
- Staff should use mobile phones in designated areas such as the staff room away from children, **not in open areas and within view of children regardless of the time of day.**
- Staff can use personal devices such as mobile phones or cameras to take photos or videos of pupils for evidence gathering, but need to upload to the Google Drive as soon as possible and then delete the files.
- Staff can use their mobile phones down at the pitch for operational reasons.
- If a member of staff breaches the school policy, then disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate.
- Staff use of mobile phones during the school day will be limited to the morning break, lunch break and after school unless for operational reasons.
- Staff should ensure that their phones are protected with PIN/access codes in case of loss or theft.
- Staff should not send and receive texts in classrooms or use camera phones at any time.
- Staff should never contact pupils from their personal mobile phone or give their mobile phone

number to pupils. If a member of staff needs to make telephone contact with a parent, a school telephone should be used.

- Staff should never store parents' or pupils' telephone or contact details on their mobile phone, as this allows the possibility of inappropriate contact.
- Staff should never send, or accept from anyone, texts or images that could be viewed as inappropriate.
- If a member of staff suspects a message, text or similar may contain inappropriate content it should not be opened but a senior member of staff, preferably the DSL should be contacted

Phones on the school bus

Phones must not be used on the school bus. A live location will be sent to parents when the bus leaves school so they can track the bus, therefore phones are not needed by students on the buses. This prevents other people using somebody's phone for inappropriate reasons or sending false messages etc.

Smart watches are banned in school. They are expensive items which could get lost or stolen and are not permitted into classrooms to avoid plagiarism or cheating incidents where information can be accessed during exams or tests.

The school accepts no responsibility for any items which are stolen or lost.

Appendix 1 - Guidance on Confiscation

DfE guide on screening and searching - What the law allows (n.b. this guidance is currently under review)

When searching mobile phones and requesting pin codes Always attempt to get the student to volunteer the information or have a parent present.

"Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so."

See below for full document

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/f0076897/screening>

DfE Behaviour and discipline guidance for school staff

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/b/behaviour%20and%20discipline%20in%20schools%20%20%20guidance%20for%20teachers%20and%20school%20staff.pdf>

Appendix 2 - Legal Context

Common Offences Related to the Misuse of Mobile Telephones

The key to both offences below is that the message/picture/video is actually **SENT** . (If it is only stored on a device the offence is not complete.)

1. Malicious Communications Act 1988

It is an offence to send an indecent, grossly offensive or threatening letter, electronic communication or other article to another person with the intention that it should cause them distress or anxiety

2. Communications Act 2003

Section 127 covers all forms of public communications 127(1) a person is guilty of an offence if they-

- a) Send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or
- (b) Causes any such message or matter to be so sent.

127(2) A person is guilty of an offence if, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another, they –

- (a) Send by means of a **public** electronic communications network, a message that they know to be false,
- (a) Causes such a message to be sent; or
- (b) Persistently makes use of a public electronic communications network

Appendix 3 – Sources of Help Resources

Resources are available to support teachers, parents and pupils to promote the safe use of mobile phones and other technologies both in school and at home. Below is a note of the resources available and a short description of what each one contains. These resources have been drawn from a variety of sources, including the Mobile Network Organisation.

The **O2 Nuisance Call Bureau** provide practical help and advice to schools – whether they're having serious problems relating to bullying on mobile phones, nuisance calls or texts, happy slapping, or any other issues. Further information is available from <http://protectourchildren.o2.co.uk/AdviceForSchools.jsp>

Mobile phone guide for parents from Orange

http://www1.orange.co.uk/safety/images/guide_for_parents.pdf

Orange Educational resources on the safe and secure uses of mobile Phones, and access to the “Incoming message” video and support materials http://www1.orange.co.uk/about/corporateresponsibility/quicklinks/educational_resources.html

Orange

<http://www.orange.co.uk/communicate/safety/>

Mobile Network Operators and Regulators

<http://protectourchildren.o2.co.uk/PreventBullying.jsp>

T-Mobile

http://www.t-mobile.co.uk/personal/pages.do/corpinfo/about-tmobile/corporate-responsibility/land_ing

For pupils

Newsround article on happy slapping including advice for pupils on what to do if it happens to them http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4490000/newsid_4498700/4498719.stm

Respectme cyberbullying resource page:

<http://www.respectme.org.uk/What-is-Cyberbullying.html>

Cybermentors

<http://cybermentors.org.uk/>

Childline

<http://www.childline.org.uk/>

For parents/carers

Mobile phones: What parents need to know provides help and advice about modern mobile phones for families and carers. http://www1.orange.co.uk/documents/regulatory_affairs/guide_for_parents.pdf

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/>

Appendix 4

Safeguarding concerns which may be raised by mobile phone use in school Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

A feature of some of the recent cases where teenage girls have been groomed for sex has been giving them expensive phones as a gift. The unexpected acquisition of an expensive mobile phone by girls who are unlikely to be able to afford one themselves should trigger a safeguarding concern.

The same approach is often used to draw children into selling drugs.

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