



C22 MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale:

Mobile phones are owned by the vast majority of students and the increase sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high monetary value of many phones and the associated risk of loss, theft or damage.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection, data protection and safeguarding issues.
- Inappropriate use of social networking sites.
- Access to bank accounts digital wallets and payment services such as Apple Pay, creating additional financial and security risks.
- The potential for mobile technology to be used to bully, harass, intimidate or cause harm to other students.
- The potential to use the phone e.g. for texting/ taking photographs /social media usage/recording whilst on silent mode.

We do not consider it realistic or desirable to prohibit phones being brought to school due to the distance our students travel and the reliance on public transport, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

Policy

1. Phones must not be used for any purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, messaging, social media updates, surfing the internet, Use of AI, taking photos, checking the time, taking videos) on the school site.
2. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view once a student arrives to site until when they physically leave the site at the end of the school day.
3. If a pupil breaches these rules the phone will be confiscated and given to the Student Hub for safe keeping. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day to enable the student to travel safely home from school.
4. The student will be issued a Senior Detention until 4.45pm on Friday afternoon for infringement of the school rules in the first instance.
5. Further breaches of this policy will invoke a meeting with the pupil's parents and an escalation in line with the behaviour policy resulting in a Saturday detention.
6. Phones must not be taken into examinations.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's other policies in particular the Behaviour Policy. Sixth form students may be given extra privileges in relation to mobile phones, at the discretion of the head of sixth form.

Emergencies

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they should be allowed to use a school phone at the Student Hub. If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

Responsibility for mobile phones:

School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and students to ensure mobile phones are properly insured.

