



'Every Child Matters'



Celebrating 60 Years of
Education

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

In St. Mary's we are committed to ensuring every child receives the very best education. We recognise that mobile phones are now part of modern day society and many of our students have mobile phones for their personal safety. We also recognise the necessity for our students to nurture and maintain friendships without the aid of mobile phones. Recent research suggests that mobile phones are detrimental to learning and as educators we no longer support the use of mobile phones our school.

The use of mobile phones in St. Mary's High School

In St. Mary's we fully support using technology to enhance the teaching and learning in our classrooms. We are committed to giving each child an exceptional educational experience. We have found over the last few years that mobile phones have become an unnecessary distraction and a health concern for our students.

Culture and Digital Secretary Matt Hancock said evidence showed removing phones in schools improves behaviour and learning. Evidence cited by Mr. Hancock suggests a ban can help students concentrate in class.

"Studies have shown that mobile phones can have a real impact on working memory and fluid intelligence, even if the phone is on a table or in a bag."¹

A study², published by the London School of Economics, stated that " the impact of banning phones for students was equivalent to an additional hour a week in school, or to increasing the school year by five days." Report authors Louis-Philippe Beland and Richard Murphy say despite the benefits of new mobile technology, phones cause distractions, reduce productivity and are detrimental to learning.

In St. Mary's we do not allow our students to use mobile phones within the school premises or on the school grounds. We operate by the rule that if a mobile phone is seen or heard, it is confiscated. We want to maximise the opportunities for each student to reach their full potential and as educators we need to focus on what is at the heart of our school - quality teaching and learning.

¹ The Guardian online - <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jun/20/matt-hancock-schools-across-the-uk-should-ban-mobile-phones>

² London School of Economics Research - <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp1350.pdf>

