



Mitchell House School Mobile Phone Policy

Introduction

Mobile phones are part of everyday life, both as means of communication and a source of entertainment. Whilst we acknowledge the benefits of mobile phones, we must also be mindful of the potential dangers and this policy has been drawn up with child protection as the paramount consideration.

The level of technological sophistication of the latest 'smart' phones means that unchecked internet access is readily available and photographic and video images are of the highest quality. It is also clear that young people are often much more knowledgeable this technology than their teachers or parents.

Policy

The school recommends that pupils do not bring mobile phones to school. We accept however that for *peace of mind* for both parent and pupil it may be preferred that a mobile is in the pupil's possession through-out the day. We also understand that pupils like to listen to music whilst travelling to and from school.

If a mobile phone is bought to school the following conditions will apply:

1. The phone must be switched off (not just on 'silent' mode) and out of sight from when the pupil leaves the school bus/taxi until he/she finishes school for the day.
2. The phone must never be used to record images (photographic or video) of other pupils or staff.
3. We are aware that mobile phones are powerful and useful pieces of technology. There may be occasions where their use is appropriate within a learning setting or to facilitate the speech and language need of the young person. If this is the case, at the teacher's discretion, it may be used during a specific activity. It must then be put away at the end of the activity, when instructed to do so.
4. Due to the sensory need of some of pupils, the Senior Leadership Team reserve the right to agree a bespoke arrangement for a specific pupil if the use of a mobile phone at certain times of the day if deemed appropriate and necessary.

Actions taken for breach of this policy

1. If a mobile sounds or if a member of staff discovers it to be switched on during the school day, the member of staff will ask for it to be turned off and put away.
2. If a mobile is being used outside of the conditions as set out above, in the first instance, the pupil will be asked to turn the phone off and put it away. Failure to comply or repeated occurrences will be reported to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents will be informed at this stage and will be given an explanation of what further actions may need to be taken if there are further breaches of the policy.
3. Further, repeat occurrences of a breach of the conditions will involve the phone being removed from the pupil and taken to the school office where it stored until the end of the school day when it will then be given

back to the pupil. Parents will once again be informed at this stage. A register will be kept of such incidents.

4. If a pupils name is recorded on a regular basis, the pupil will no longer be permitted to bring the phone to school.
5. If a mobile phone is used to take a photograph of another pupil or member of staff the phone will be taken to the office and the parent/s will be contacted. The image will be deleted and the pupil will no longer be permitted to bring the phone to school.

Security

Mobile phones are valuable items and should be looked after carefully throughout the school day.

**The school accepts no liability for pupils' mobile phones.*