

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY



THE GRANGE
SCHOOL

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MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY



INTRODUCTION AND POLICY STATEMENT

Post-pandemic use of mobile phones has been subject to debate in educational circles due to the following concerns:

- Safeguarding students from inappropriate content when the nature of a mobile technology means unfettered and unrestricted access to networks.
- Studies have shown that the presence of a mobile phone can be a distraction from learning as attention is pulled away from the learning or task at hand.
- Encouraging students to be more independent of technology rather than relying on it for their socialisation.

We have changed our mobile phone policy for Years 7 to 11 in lieu of the above concerns. Students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to use their phone responsibly on the school site, mirroring our expectations of staff.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To safeguard students against online issues or bullying
- To ensure that students are making the most of the educational opportunities within The Grange.
- To encourage in person interactions whilst in school, encouraging a sense of community.
- To reduce the number of incidents involving mobile phones

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

In reading this policy you should also consider and consult the following policies:

- Behaviour and Discipline
- Welfare and Safeguarding

REVIEW DATES AND APPROVAL

This policy is reviewed by the Compliance Committee and then approved by the Full Board of Governors (including the Chair of Governors and the Head(s)).

Last reviewed: February 2023

Next review: February 2025

Person responsible for review: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY



From September 2020, we asked all students to bring into school and work from an electronic device to aid their learning inside and outside of the classroom. Currently parents are providing this device, insurance is provided by the school whilst the device is on site. We have not been specific about what device to use if it can access Microsoft 365, Firefly and Zoom. This is also in line with the school's current ICT Strategy.

There is an educational value to using digital devices in the classroom but we feel that the risks associated with mobile phones outweigh the benefits:

- The nature of a mobile technology means unfettered and unrestricted access to networks.
- Studies have shown that the presence of a mobile phone can be a distraction from learning as attention is pulled away from the learning or task at hand.
- It is important for us to encourage students to be more independent of technology rather than relying on it for their socialisation.

YEARS 7 TO 11 – RULES FOR MOBILE PHONES

As with any valuables, we would not recommend expensive items come on to site as we do not insure for the property of individuals. However, we are aware that for safeguarding and travel arrangements, many of our students need mobile phones for the journey to and from school.

In the event that students need to bring a mobile phone onto site, those in Years 7 to 11 should hand their phone in to tutors to securely store these during the school day:

- Students will hand their labelled mobile phones to tutors at the start of the day.
- On a piece of paper (a weekly record supplied by the office) tutors will note who they have mobile phones from so that there is a record for the beginning and end of each day.
- Tutors should also make a note of any damaged phones.
- Mobile phones will be stored in a locked and secured safe throughout the day.
- Tutors can then reissue mobile phones to students at the end of the school day.

If a student is late to registration, students should hand their mobile phone into the office as soon as they arrive in school and sign in. They can collect it from the office at the end of the day.

If a student knows that they have an appointment during the school day or need to leave the school site before the end of the day, they should hand their mobile phone in at reception. They can collect their phone from the office at the end of the day.

In exceptional cases, a student may be given permission to have a mobile phone on them for mental health or safeguarding purposes. All exceptions have completed a request that has been approved by the pastoral team.

MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY



SIXTH FORM - RULES FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF A MOBILE PHONE OR ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN SCHOOL BY STUDENTS

- When a member of staff has instructed the student to use a mobile phone or electronic device, this can include taking photos of class notes
- When a student is using Firefly or another education-based app or website as part of a productive working atmosphere.
- Sixth Form students can have their mobile phone or electronic device out in the Common Room but they must be using the device appropriately, this can include music.
- No student may take a mobile phone or electronic device (including smart watches) into a room where examinations are being held both internally and externally
- The security of the mobile phone or electronic device will always remain the student's responsibility.

RULES FOR ALL DEVICES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Irrespective of device, filming, games, photography or the use of social media is completely forbidden in school. Electronic devices should not be used during break, lunch, in the canteen, whilst walking around the site or on the field.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CONFISCATION OF A MOBILE PHONE

Should a member of staff see a mobile phone, this will be confiscated. The phone or device will be handed to the main reception by the member of staff and can be collected by the student at 3.50pm.

In every case of confiscation, the pastoral team will follow up with the students to establish the reasons behind this and to encourage them to follow the rules in future. Should a student repeat this, students will be issued detentions for this – firstly a breaktime with their form tutor, then a lunchtime with their Head of Year and finally an after school with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In the case of another confiscation, the student and their parents will be invited into school to discuss this with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Students who become repeat offenders for misuse of an electronic device will be banned from bringing this electronic device into school. Head of Year will liaise with the student and parents to confirm this device has not come into school. The length of the ban will be determined by the Head of Year.

Mobile Phones or Camera's in EYFS –

All members of staff lock their mobile phones away before teaching or working in our EYFS. This also means no cameras are used in this setting.