



The Use of Mobile Phones in College

The use of mobile phones has become a major part of our culture and the College recognises the advantages of their usage, but the misuse of mobile phones in College can cause disruption to learning and creates social exclusion between students. Research by the London School of Economics and Political Science (May 2015), found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of students aged 16 improved by 6.4%. The economists reckon that this is the "equivalent of adding five days to the school year".

We discourage students from bringing mobile phones to College, but we understand parents may wish for them to have a phone for their safety whilst travelling to and from College. Therefore, any student who brings a mobile phone into the College does so at their own risk, and the College will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

The purpose of this document is to provide a set of procedures which will ensure both students and staff understand the appropriate ways in which mobile phones may be used in College, and will form part of the Behaviour and E-Safety Policies.

- The use of mobile phones in the classroom is not acceptable as they cause a distraction to learning. Students will only be permitted to use their phones in lessons for educational purposes and under direct supervision of the teacher.
- Mobiles phones must be turned off and kept out of sight. Some departments may wish to collect in mobiles phones at the start of each lesson. If this practice is adopted, then departments must lock the phones up in a secure place and ensure the correct phone is returned to the students.
- The use of mobile phones to play music, take photographs or video images is prohibited as it may breach the College E-Safety Policy. As in line with the E-Safety Policy, teachers must only allow students to use College cameras/video recorders for educational purposes.
- If a student is using a mobile phone in lesson, the teacher will confiscate the phone and return the phone to the student after the lesson. For a second offence, the phone will be handed into Pastoral Support Assistant to be collected at the end of the day. For a third offence, parents will be asked to collect the phone from the Pastoral Support Assistant. If a student refuses to hand over the phone, then sanctions will be put in place.
- The use of mobile phones in the main College is strictly limited, and is discouraged in social times to promote social interaction. Students should not be listening to music, talking on the phone or texting whilst moving between lessons. Students may use their phones during the lunch period as long as they are sitting in an area such as the main hall or tutor room. We discourage the use of mobile phones at the dining table, as we would encourage more social interaction.
- As in line with the E-Safety Policy, the use of mobile phones to store or transmit violent, degrading acts, racist or pornographic images, sexting or personal sexual imagery is strictly prohibited. The transmission of such images is a criminal offence. Therefore, the College will inform the police and the College Safeguarding Officer. Such behaviour may result in a fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion.
- The use of a mobile phone to cause distress or deemed to be bullying another person will be considered under the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- The use of mobile phones is prohibited in all public exams. Students must follow the JCQ guidelines.
- If a student is unwell and wishes to go home, they must report to the nurse or reception. Under no circumstances should a student telephone his/her parent/carer to collect them from College. Similarly, parents/carers should not telephone their child and arrange to collect them without informing the attendance office or reception.