

Hornsea School & Language College



Mobile Phone Policy

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Approved by:	Headteacher: 23.11.22	Governing Body: 23.11.22
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Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one.

Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the phone e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode.
- The potential for misuse and abuse of social media and related safeguarding concerns in terms of peer on peer cyber abuse and production, storage and distribution of sexual and other inappropriate material
- As a potential source of distraction in class and the potential negative impact upon this on teaching and learning

It is the case that in the Summer of 2021, there has been discussion and a DfE instigated consultation on the use and potential prohibition of mobile phones in school. School will continue to follow DfE guidance and any other guidance and advice to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and best practice

This notwithstanding, at this point in time (August 2022), the school stance remains that it is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. We also accept that the rural nature of parts of the school catchment area and the location of the school means that it is sensible and safer for students to have a means of communication available to them when travelling to and from school. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below. As with other aspects of life in our school community we strongly advocate clear expectations and student taking personal responsibility for their choices and actions. As such, there are clear expectations and consistent monitoring of mobile phone use to maximise the positive potential of such devices and minimise any negative impact or implications within school. The management of mobile phone use is a prominent feature within the Positive Discipline structure with associated sanctions for failing to meet expectations. School remains confident in the ability to manage mobile phone use by students

Policy

1. Phones must not be used in classrooms unless a member of staff gives permission
2. Otherwise phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.
3. Pupils should never take photographs or record staff or pupils (or distribute such material) without their knowledge and permission
4. If a pupil breaches these rules the phone will be confiscated, a Written Warning issued (M) and the phone confiscated and given in to the main office for the student to collect at 3pm. Each time a phone is confiscated the parents/carers will be notified. If a phone is confiscated for a second time during a term parents/carers will be contacted and asked to come and collect the phone.
If a student refuses to hand over their phone staff will send for a Red Card and the student will have to do 1 hour detention the following day and have to be removed from that lesson for the rest of lesson. Whilst the student will keep their phone, please see point 7 below, which will be applied to students failing to comply with this behaviour expectation.
5. If a student is released during a lesson (e.g. toilet, running an errand etc) then they must leave their mobile phone with the teacher / member of staff in the classroom. The phone should be switched off. Students seen with mobile phones out of class during lesson time will be challenged accordingly and Written Warning (M) issued and consideration given to a

mobile phone ban in line with point 7 below if repeat offenders are identified. Phones must not be taken into examinations.

6. School reserves the right to confiscate a mobile phone in the event of misuse and apply sanctions in line with the Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy
7. If a student fails to hand over a mobile phone when requested to do so by a member of staff, this will result in a 2 week ban from use on site. In this case the phone must be either left at home or handed in to staff upon arrival and collected at the end of the day. Failure to comply with the sanction will result in an escalation in PD sanctions up to and including exclusion
8. School strongly advocates responsible use of mobile phone technology and social media but cannot be expected to manage or have responsibility for use by pupils, particularly out of school. Where issues arise between pupils as a result of misuse of social media, school will look to parents to support efforts (and where appropriate take the lead) to manage and address these, particularly when originating from 'out of school communication'. Where appropriate and necessary, school will work with partner agencies and Police and cooperate with requests to confiscate phones in event of alleged criminal activity / offending behaviour.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's other policies in particular the Behaviour Policy and Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy

Emergencies and Difficulties in School

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they will be allowed to use a school phone.

If parents need to contact children urgently they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

There is a clear expectation that pupils should share any concerns or difficulties with staff in the first instance to allow appropriate support to be provided and action to be taken and work with staff to share information appropriately with home. Pupils should not contact their parents or indeed parents of other pupils directly prior to informing staff as this can undue cause difficulties and misunderstandings.

Responsibility for mobile phones:

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