

Mobile Phone and Air Pods Guidelines

We introduced these guidelines in September 2017. It has had a positive impact on the school and the feedback we have received from both parents and students has been supportive of the guidelines.

Students in Years 7 – 11 are not permitted to use mobile phones when on the school site. As a school we are convinced that mobile phones are a distraction and have serious concerns about the impact of their inappropriate use. We do know their use is reducing our students' ability to connect with one another socially. We also believe that removing the distraction of mobile phones at school will impact favourably on our students' approaches to their studies and outcomes for all.

We do, however, recognise that some parents want their children to carry mobile phones to school. The school rules therefore state that phones should not be seen, heard or used in school. All phones should be switched off before students enter the school grounds and remain switched off. All phones must be kept out of sight in bags or lockers, students are not allowed to carry phones in pockets or on their person.

If a mobile phone is seen, heard or used in school it will be confiscated. Any phone that is confiscated will be kept in a secure location. Parents will be notified that their child's phone has been confiscated. Parents, or an appropriate adult, will be invited to collect the phone from the main school reception after a period of 24 hours. If the phone is confiscated on a Friday, the phone can be collected on the Monday. If a parent wishes the phone to be returned to their child directly. This will only happen following a period of 72 hours. Any student who fails to hand in their phone when asked will receive a suspension. Repeated failure to follow the policy may result in a longer suspension or a temporary transfer to another school's behaviour base.

Students must make sure their phone is switched off before they enter the school grounds and remain switched off while on school grounds. If students need to make a call at the end of the day to discuss arrangements with parents this must take place off the school grounds or after 3.25pm outside the school buildings. If a student needs to make an essential call during the school day they must go to their year team at break, lunch or after school to make the essential call.

Parents and carers should be reassured that they will still be able to communicate with students during the course of the school day through our established communication pathways. Please contact the school switchboard and a member of our team will be able to pass on any urgent messages to students.

As air pods connect to mobile phones these are also not allowed to be used whilst a student is on school site. If a young person is seen with air pods these will also be confiscated and the arrangements for them to be returned is the same as mobile phones.

These guidelines have a positive impact on the school environment. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing our message at home.