

Mobile Phone Policy

The safety, wellbeing and progress of our students is of paramount importance, and we want students to take full advantage of the opportunities school provides, without being distracted by or fixated on their phone. Mobile phones are designed to be addictive, with their constant deluge of notifications, eternally scrolling screens and apps set up to provide instant gratification and the unending desire for more. There is also a wide range of research evidence to show that mobile phone use is linked with lower academic achievement, a decrease in wellbeing and an increase in bullying in schools. Teenage addiction to social media and the misery that such platforms can create is a very significant concern, both in schools and in society at large. Therefore, it is important that school time, both academic and social, is able to be free of that burden, and that we enable our students to learn how to be less reliant on devices.

Our policy on mobile phones at MCS is as follows:

1. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used by Year 7-11 students in school, and are permitted to be used for study only in designated areas by Sixth Form students (the LRC and faculty hubs).
2. When students enter the school site they must switch them off and place them in their bag or locker. The phone must not be seen or heard during the school day.
3. Mobile phones will be removed from Year 7-11 students for them to collect at the end of the school day, if the phones are seen or heard during the school day. This includes all areas of the site, and all parts of the day including break times.
4. Repeated infractions will result in phones being confiscated for a longer period of time, with parents and carers being required to collect phones of students who repeatedly use them whilst at school.
5. Smart watches are not permitted and will be confiscated if seen, as per points 3 and 4 above.
6. Headphones and earphones are not permitted, unless being used under the direction of a member of staff for educational purposes, and will be confiscated if seen, as per points 3 and 4 above.
7. Refusal to hand items over promptly to staff will be considered a behavioural issue, and will result in sanctions under the relevant school policy.
8. If items are seen after the school day, students will be required to hand the item in to *Ready To Learn* the next day for a day of confiscation.
9. If students need to contact home in an emergency, they should ask a member of staff or Reception for permission to use their phone.

10. Sixth Form students are permitted to use mobile phones for independent study only in the Learning Resource Centre or other study spaces, but are not permitted to use them in communal areas such as corridors, the food hall, the main atrium and yards. This is so that they set a good example to younger students.
11. Sixth Form students will be reminded of the expectations of them under this policy in most circumstances, but repeated infractions or refusal to adhere to this policy will be considered a behavioural issue, and will result in sanctions under the relevant school policy.

The benefits:

1. Students learn how to be less reliant on their phones for social interactions and distraction, which will be of benefit to their wellbeing, their safety and their academic progress.
2. Students are able to contact home before and after school after leaving the school site if required, as well as when travelling to and from school.
3. Sixth Form students can use their phones independently as a study tool as part of our Sixth Form Professional Student expectations.
4. Students will be taught the benefits, responsible use and potential issues of mobile phones and the internet through our wider curriculum, without being left to work it out themselves.
5. The School is in a position to encourage physical activity in breaks, conversation between students, games and normal social interactions in real life instead of staring at a screen.
6. The School is better able to meet its safeguarding obligations regarding student access to the internet.
7. This approach is in line with the spirit of our Relationships and Behaviour Policy, which promotes our school value of *freedom with responsibility*. Students have the freedom to have a device with them, and have the responsibility to not use it whilst on the school site, or in the case of sixth Form students, to use it only in line with our expectations of them as Professional Students.

Refusal to follow this policy will be deemed a refusal to follow the rules of the School, and will be dealt with under the relevant policy. This may include sanctions such as placing the student in IR, calling a parent or carer to come and collect the phone, or a fixed term exclusion.

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