

Mobile devices - November 2019

Change to policy on use of mobile devices.

Students will be expected to store their phone (including headphones), turned off, during the school day; this includes break and lunch time. The school day begins as soon as children arrive on site in the morning and ends once they have left it.

Students' mobile devices should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school hours.

If families need to contact their children during the school day, they should do so through the school reception. Families should not call, text or email their children directly on their mobiles during the school day.

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In the event of an emergency, a member of staff may grant exceptional permission for a student to use their mobile device.

The only exception to the ban on mobile phones will be in the event that their use is explicitly directed by a member of staff to support learning. The phone would be expected to be turned off and stored away after use.

Rationale

- Avoid pupils spending excessive amounts of time connected to social media, texting or electronic games.
- Educate pupils about the benefits of balancing time spent on and offline.
- Well-being benefits for students being disconnected from some of the pressures of social media during the school day.
- Academic studies have shown that when the pressures and distractions of mobile phones are removed from students, there can be a significant benefit to learning.
- Students spend more of their free time talking with each other rather than connected to screens.
- Avoid mobile devices and headphones creating a virtual barrier in normal daily interactions.
- Safeguarding concerns arising from pupil access to mobile phones and Wi-Fi.
- Avoid concerns that some may access inappropriate or harmful content on their phones at break and lunch time.
- An increasing amount of staff time is being used to resolve disagreements that have arisen during the school day on social media or texts.
- Avoid conflict with parents who have been contacted by their child about an issue before reporting to staff or going to isolation.

Monitoring and consequences

If a **phone or headphones** are seen or heard on site during the school day the phone will, in the **first** instance, be **confiscated** and stored in a labelled envelope within a secure (locked) drawer in the Reception Office. Students will be required to collect it at the end of the day.

On the **second** occasion that a student has their phone **confiscated**, a **Red Card Detention** will be issued and the pupil will be required to collect their phone at the end of the school day.

If there is a **third** occasion an **After School Detention** will be issued and we will contact parents/carers to ask someone with parental responsibility to collect it from reception; it **will not be returned directly to the student**. The family member will be able to collect the phone from the school reception after the end of the school day or at their earliest convenience.

If there is a **fourth** occasion a **parental meeting** will be scheduled and the school may withdraw the agreement to allow the student to bring a mobile device to school. **RTL Isolation**.

If a pupil refuses to hand in their mobile device warnings will be issued in line with the Excellent Behaviour at St Bernadette Policy.

Members of staff

- Members of staff are permitted to bring their own mobile devices to work and to use them during the school day. However, this must be done in the confine of an office environment.
- Members of staff should not use their personal mobile devices during lessons, whilst on duty, or whilst otherwise engaged in the supervision of students, except in exceptional circumstances

Proposal for phased implementation

Week beginning	Activity	Staff	Detail
04/11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Team meeting • Meeting with lunch time supervisors. • Meeting with office staff 	JGA/JB	<p>Launch change in policy regarding use of mobile phones with teaching and support staff.</p> <p>Provide opportunity for staff to raise questions/concerns via email. All questions will be collated and responded to.</p> <p>Draft policy and procedures issued to staff.</p>
11/11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to parents. • Website update 	JGA/JB	<p>Inform parents about changes to mobile phone use and rationale. Including responses to FAQs and any other parental questions.</p> <p>Information added to website about new policy and procedures.</p> <p>Articles/useful websites to be published in The Bernard.</p>
18/11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil assemblies 	JGA/JB	<p>Assemblies delivered to all year groups by JGA/JB.</p> <p>Outline changes in expectation to pupils and describe rationale and timeline for bringing in changes.</p>
25/11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutor activities 	Tutors	<p>Tutor activities provided to tutors to reinforce rationale for new expectations.</p>
02/12/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Talking consequences 	All	<p>All staff explain to pupils seen using mobile phones at social times that after Christmas mobile phone use will be banned at social times. Clarification of new sanctions.</p>
09/12/19			
16/12/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phones in bags at social times. 	All	<p>Pupils seen using phones during social times are asked to put them away and future consequences clarified.</p>
Holiday			
06/01/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile phone use ban fully in place. 	All	<p>Full implementation of agreed procedures and policy for mobile phone use.</p>

Useful Links

<https://www.indy100.com/article/why-you-should-turn-your-phone-off-right-now-if-you-want-to-do-something-properly--WJl3l2wumg>

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/sep/26/ban-mobile-phones-in-schools-to-protect-pupils-mental-health?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/may/15/mobile-phone-bans-improve-school-exam-results-research-shows>

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/education/news/article.cfm?c_id=35&objectid=12237946&ref=rss