Mobile, smart technology and tracking devices policy

Secondary academies (Sixth form)

Mobile and smart technology

Student responsibilities

A privilege of sixth form is that students you are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school.

We appreciate these are an important element of young people's lives in this current era and can, when used appropriately, play a positive and prominent role in learning.

This policy strikes a clear balance between giving senior students the added level of responsibility and privilege which prepares you for life beyond school whilst maintaining our position as role models to the younger year groups.

As senior students at the school, we know you will understand your responsibility as a role model to younger students who do not have this privilege and accept the following: -

- Mobile phones may only be used in the designated sixth form areas and more specifically in the sixth form café
- Using mobile phones / smart devices to take 'selfies' will not be tolerated anywhere on the school site.
- Mobile phones must not be passed to or used to take images of younger pupils (including siblings)
- Mobile phones should only be visible in class with the permission of the class teacher
- If you are seen using your phone by a member of staff outside the clearly designated areas, the phone will be confiscated and should be collected from sixth form reception at the end of the day. If a phone is confiscated for a second time, it will be confiscated until the end of the week and then for two weeks following that.
- Refusal to hand over your phone to any member of staff will be considered a serious incident and sanctioned in accordance with the sixth form section of the behaviour policy

The above conditions can be applied to any additional electronic accessories if they are used inappropriately.

Where there is the widespread inappropriate use of phones and electronic equipment, the school reserves the right to prohibit the use of phones on the whole in school for all sixth form students.

Tracking devices

Tracking devices (such as air tags, smart tags and similar GPS / Bluetooth tracking technology) and unauthorised recording devices (such as covert voice recorders or recording apps via smart watches) are a 'banned item'; the possession of which can lead to sanctions in line with our Behaviour policy and can be searched for in line with our Searching and confiscation policy both available on the policy page of the school website.

They are not permitted in school, on school transport and during off-site educational visits. This is ban is enforced to ensure the safety, privacy and well-being of all members of the school community.

The mechanics of how these devices work trigger data protection and wider, group safeguarding issues when brought into the school environment.

Tracking devices rely on pinging the Bluetooth networks of surrounding devices belonging to staff (and some students) without their explicit consent.

- Broadcasted locations can compromise the safety of vulnerable children, including those under specific care or protection orders.

- A school trip itinerary, a roster of children, or a student's real-time physical coordinates are highly protected datasets. If a tracking device broadcasts the precise location of school transport, destination or a residential location, it effectively leaks localised group data to a parent's personal device

- Unexpected "unknown tracker" beeping or anti-stalking safety alerts can trigger unnecessary panic, while parental anxiety over minor itinerary deviations disrupts staff management.

Enforcing the policy

Devices that are discovered in school will be confiscated and remain in the school office until Friday. If it is confiscated on a Friday it will remain in the office until the following Friday.

On a Friday a confiscated device will be returned to a parent between 4pm and 5pm by a member of the school community.

If the device is confiscated for a second time the school will keep the phone until the next holiday and make arrangements as to whom it is returned.