

Walton Priory Middle School



Beacon for Life

Mobile phone policy (students)

Reviewed	Jan 2020	Next Review	Jan 2021
Approved by	Governors	Signed	A Brooke-Chair

Acceptable Use Policy (Students)

Purpose

- The widespread ownership of mobile phones and Smart watches among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones and Smart watches can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.
- Walton Priory Middle School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones and Smart watches that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use during school hours.
- Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile phones and or Smart watches to school.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones and Smart watches also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities both on and off school site.

Rationale

Walton Priory Middle School recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life but that such technologies need to be used well.

Personal safety and security

Our School accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones and or Smart watches to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.
- The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to understand the capabilities of the phone and the potential use/misuse of those capabilities.
- Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone and or Smart watch to school. It is assumed household insurance will provide the

required cover in the event of loss or damage. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs incurred due to its use.

- Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any relevant way.

Parents & other visitors:

- Mobile phones or any other devices capable of recording images must never be used to take photographs in the school building or grounds unless permission is granted by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Before parents are permitted to take photographs, or make recordings, at assemblies or performances, consent will need to be obtained from all parents of other children. If consent is not permitted from all parents, then permission for photographs and videos will be refused.
- Visitors will be asked to switch off their mobile phones whilst on school premises and to refrain from using them.

We very much appreciate our parents' support in implementing this policy in order to keep your children/our pupils safe.

Unacceptable Uses

- Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones and or Smart watches should not be used to make calls, send messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school hours.
- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable. Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour. If the use of technology humiliates, embarrasses or causes offence it is unacceptable regardless of whether 'consent' was given.
- It is forbidden for students to "gang up" on another student and use their mobile phones to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate and humiliate that student and then send the pictures to other students or upload it to a website for public viewing. This also includes using mobile phones to photograph or film any student or member of staff without their consent. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

Theft or damage

- Students should mark their mobile phone clearly with their name.
- Pupils are required to hand in their mobile phones at the start of the school day and are allowed to collect these from the designated form room at 3.15pm.
- During school hours, phones are kept in boxes in their designated form room.

- Students are not permitted to wear Smart watches (e.g. iwatch, Garmin etc.) if they are able to receive and answer calls and messages of any type. These watches can be worn if their phone is switched off and in the school box (or at home) as this disables the calls and messages until the phone is turned back on.
- Devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones and Smart watches.
- The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phone or Smart watches stolen while travelling to and from school.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential and must not be shared.

Sanctions

- Students who infringe the rules set out in this document could face having their phones or watches confiscated by teachers. If it is being used inappropriately the student must give it to a teacher if requested.
- Parents will be notified and the student will not be permitted to collect the phone or watch without a parent/carer's consent. If a parent/carer is unable to attend the school, they are permitted to phone and give verbal consent for their child to collect the phone and must speak to the form tutor or behaviour team. The incident will be recorded.
- Any further infringements of the mobile phone code of conduct may result in a ban on bringing a mobile phone to school.
- As set out in the previous section, failure to heed the rules set out in this document may result in an alleged incident - of a serious nature - being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or carer would be notified immediately.