



ORMISTON
SIX VILLAGES
ACADEMY



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Approved by the Governance Board: July 2017

Date of next review: May 2018

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Ormiston Six Villages academy believes that developing children's interpersonal and communication skills is fundamental to them becoming good citizens and future employees and will enhance their friendships.

It has become a feature of life in recent years that many young people spend a great deal of time looking at digital screens and using social media, often at the detriment of social interaction, at times being engrossed in mobile technology for long periods of time.

This policy sets out the Academy's framework for determining what is 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' use of mobile phones by students while they are at Ormiston Six Villages Academy.

Please note: For the purposes of this policy, all references to 'mobile phones' should be taken to include: mobile phones, tablets, iPads and mp3 players. Smart watches are allowed in the academy but should not be used for communication purposes. In addition students should not listen to music connected to headphones via any device.

Introduction

Mobiles phones have become a common possession and are increasingly complex and sophisticated. Many people view them as an essential of modern life. There are however many issues that relate to mobile phone use, or indeed possession, in the academy, which have informed the development and implementation of this policy.

In summary, the problems that mobile phones cause in the academy include:

1. Students spending excessive time looking at digital screens to the detriment of developing good interpersonal skills.
2. Students disturbed by texts, or social media alerts close to lesson start times, which distracts from their learning.
3. Lesson disruption by phone/text messages.
4. In terms of safeguarding, it is rare but possible that photographs and videos can be taken of other students or staff and quickly loaded onto social networking sites via a student's smart phone.
5. Increasing the opportunity for cyber-bullying which is distressing for students and in turn can divert teaching time to deal with these situations.
6. Worry at responsibility for an expensive item. (Please note: items are brought into the academy at their owner's risk and the academy will not accept responsibility for any damage or loss).

Policy

1. If parent/carers feel it is important that their child has a mobile phone with them to and from academy, they may do so on condition that the device is switched off (not placed on silent) and kept out of sight at all times when the student is on the academy site.
2. If a parent needs to contact their child for an emergency, or any other reason, they should telephone the academy reception on (01243) 546800.
3. If a student needs to contact home urgently during the academy day they can do so through their Directors of Learning Office.
4. If a student is seen with a mobile phone on the academy premises or walking around with one that is visible, they will have it confiscated. If a student's phone cannot be seen but nevertheless is heard to ring or emit a message alert it will be confiscated.
5. When a mobile phone is confiscated the matter will be recorded by the Director of Learning Office. On the first occasion a student's phone is confiscated, they will be able to collect it at the end of the academy day from the Director of Learning Office. On the second and each subsequent occasion their phone is confiscated, parents will be required to collect the phone, by arranged appointment at the end of the academy day, at a meeting with a member of academy staff.
6. Should there be repeated occasions of confiscation it may become necessary for a student to be required to hand their phone into the Director of Learning Office each day, or leave their phone at home.
7. Parents will be notified by text or email if their child's mobile phone has been confiscated.
8. If a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone when requested to do so they will be removed from lessons and work in the Supervised Learning Centre.
9. Students will not be allowed to use their phones anywhere on site, including corridors, the canteen or café, playgrounds, toilets and the academy field.
10. Academy staff will only be allowed to use private mobile phones in the staffroom or in offices, except for safeguarding reasons. Academy phones used for running aspects of the academy such as building and grounds maintenance will be limited.