

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Since the installation of the 4G mast near the Glenalmond estate in 2015 there has been a dramatic increase in Smart Phone usage by our pupil body. There has been growing concern from some parents and staff that pupils are spending too much time on mobile devices on social media, playing games, watching Youtube or surfing the internet. When used properly digital technology can be powerful and has many benefits but studies have shown that too much use of mobile devices can have a negative effect on young people's physiological, social and emotional well-being as well as taking time away from academic study.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to give pupils time away from their phones each day so that they can use their time more effectively on academic work whilst also benefitting from more social interaction with their peers.

Rules and regulations

All pupils should have no access to mobile phones during three periods of every school day: during academic lessons, prep times and overnight. Upper 6th will be allowed phones overnight as a privilege. A general '*no blue light rule*' after 2145 is desirable, particularly for junior pupils. Phones are also not permitted in Hall, Chapel or in and around the main school at any time. In effect phones should be in Boarding Houses for the vast majority of the school week.

Pupils will be required to leave their mobile phones in their lockable drawers before they come for morning roll call every school day and they are to remain there until after the final lesson of the day. Prefects, overseen by HMs, will collect and return phones during prep time and before bedtime. Day pupils are encouraged to leave their phones at home but if they choose to bring them to school they must ensure that they are stored safely and not visible during lessons.

Pupils will be permitted to take mobile phones to away fixtures on Saturday. Pupils will be permitted to use mobile phones on Sunday apart from when in Chapel, Hall and during the two prep slots.

The only exception to the above regulations is when a pupil is specifically told they can bring their phone to a particular lesson for a particular purpose by a teacher eg to take pictures for coursework in Technology. If a pupil is required to bring their phone to a particular lesson then it must be turned off and not visible in prior or subsequent lessons.

Sanctions

On the first infringement of this policy the mobile phone is to be confiscated and passed to Mr O'Neill who will return it to the pupil 24 hours later and keep a record of the infringement.

On the second infringement the mobile phone is to be confiscated and passed to Mr O'Neill who will return it 48 hours later and place the pupil in a double Saturday detention.

On the third infringement the mobile phone will be confiscated for half a term and Mr O'Neill will discuss this with HMs and parents.

For Day pupils parents will be contacted from the first infringement. Pupils will have their phones returned before they go home on the day of the infringement and parents will be asked to keep their son/daughter's phone at home for the times stated above.