

ABBEY COLLEGE POLICY STATEMENT

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Rationale:

New technology has developed rapidly over the last five years and most young people now have their own mobile phone and portable music system. The College needs to recognise this and work with students to use the technology to the advantage of all. However, mobiles can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. **The Governing Body strongly discourages students from bringing mobile phones and electronic devices into the College but where they are brought into the College, the following policy will be rigorously enforced. This is part of the National Safeguarding agenda for which Abbey College has implemented by:**

“Removing the threat of cyber bullying at Abbey College by limiting mobile phone use and visibility during the school day”

Objectives:

- To allow teaching and learning in the classroom to take place undisturbed by mobile phones and music players.
- To **enable** students to use mobile phones and music players on the buses to and from school.
- To make it clear to students that the presence or use of mobile phones or electronic devices are **not to be seen or heard during the College day**.
- To allow all students to be safe from the effects of mobile phone and text bullying and to protect all members of the school from the negative use of camera/**video** phones.

Guidelines

1. **Mobile phones and portable music players should not be seen in any area of the College from September 2010 any that are visible or audible will be confiscated.** Students will be able to collect items from Reception at 3.10pm. However, students who **are confrontational** may have items confiscated and held in school until parents/**carers** are able to come in to retrieve the item. The school is at liberty to keep confiscated items until they see fit to return them and this is based on whether the item was used inappropriately and the frequency of use.
2. If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material (eg pornographic, racist or otherwise offensive images, **threat**, videos or **bullying** messages) stored on it, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents/**carers** will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation. (There has been a recent court case where a person has received a custodial sentence for showing someone a video on a mobile phone, which caused them distress. Parents and students should be aware that such incidents are likely to be treated seriously by the courts). Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.
3. **Students are allowed to bring mobile phones/ music players to College, but they must be turned off and stored out of sight. This ensures that students can use their phones for safeguarding purposes on their way to and from College.**

- 4. Students remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.**

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