

Mobil Phone Policy



Policy Number:	SU17	Originator:	Lukasz Miecznikowski
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AS MOST DEVICES ARE MULTI-PURPOSE, THIS POLICY APPLIES NOT ONLY TO MOBILE PHONES, BUT ALSO TO ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE CAPABLE OF PLAYING OR RECORDING MUSIC OR VIDEO CLIPS OR CAPABLE OF TAKING PHOTOS.

1. Rationale

Generally, problems with mobile phones fall into three categories – text, speech and images. “Texting” enables students to 'talk' from any distance, from anywhere and at any time and gives them an outlet for personal and interpersonal interactions that may create or add to a range of problems which can have a negative impact on individuals. Extreme examples reported in the national press include 'cyber bullying'.

Camera and video phones combined with wireless technology enable students to make still images or videos of themselves or others and 'send' them to other phones or post them on the internet. Sometimes these can be candid images that have been taken without the consent or even knowledge of the person(s) involved. Occasionally, it can be with malicious intent.

Students with 'wireless' or blue tooth phones also can have unrestricted access to the internet and are able to download material from other similar devices. Many internet sites aim their content (text, music, images and videos) at young people who can download or upload files and then share them by sending them to other mobile phones. On some sites acceptable material, such as songs, cartoons or 'amusing' videos, are presented alongside unacceptable material putting vulnerable young people at risk.

At the extreme end there are a number of aspects of law that may apply to the misuse of mobile phones and other digital devices. In the most serious cases there may be a crime involved – for example, an incident being filmed might be an assault or breach of the peace.

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The misuse of phones might be an offence under the Communications Act 2003, if it involves a message that is grossly offensive or is of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

These technological developments combined with the ever-changing world that our young people are growing up in present new and unprecedented challenges for schools.

Our mobile phone policy aims to deal with these problems in school by banning the use of mobile phones during the school day. In particular, pupils are not allowed to use them at all on the school site at any time, for any purpose. If they are brought into school they must be handed in to the office.

2. Aim of the policy

The aim of this policy is to outline the management of mobile telephones of students in school.

2.1. Policy

2.2. Use of phones

- Students are not allowed to bring or use mobile phones into the Greater Horseshoe School.
- If a student travels independently and needs to bring a mobile telephone to school a request in writing needs to be made to the Head Teacher.

2.3. Procedure: Management of mobile phones on school site

- When a student is found with a mobile telephone anywhere on the school site staff will direct the student to hand it in to the office.
- Student telephones will be handed to the office or their school staff and will be returned at the end of the school day during handover.
- If a student refuses to surrender their mobile telephone (unless there are previously agreed special circumstances with the Head teacher) they will remain out of lessons and observed by staff for the protection of other students.
- Parents/carers will be informed.
- The student will be removed from site by school or residential care staff as soon as possible
- In certain circumstances The Education Act 2011 gives additional powers to schools – screening, searching and confiscation, including the electronic devices.

2.4. Responsibility

- Parents and carers are advised that the Greater Horseshoe School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds.

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3. Equality Impact Statement

All relevant persons are required to comply with this policy and must demonstrate sensitivity and competence in relation to diversity in race, faith, age, gender, disability and sexual orientation. If you, or any other groups, believe you are disadvantaged by this policy please contact the Group Director for Education and Learning. Enhanced Children's Services will then actively respond to the enquiry.

This policy is written by Lukasz Miecznikowski

Date: 1st of May 2020

Signed 

This policy is quality assured by Jason Goddard, Group Director for Education and Learning.

Signed: 

Date: 1st of June 2020

The policy is quality assured by Governor: