

## Mobile Devices

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our students own one. The increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools.

- The high value of many phones
- Phones with cameras can lead to potential child protection and data protection issues
- The potential use of the phone e.g. for texting whilst on silent mode
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones to bully, intimidate, ridicule others
- New research showing that student achievement increases when use of mobile phones is restricted.
- The permanence of images which can seriously impede future prospects including university acceptance, job prospects etc.

The academy allows students to have mobile phones in their school bag as this provides reassurance for parents/carers and enables them to make contact with their daughter **outside** of the school day. During the school day, **in case of emergency**, the academy should be the **only point of contact**. Academy staff can then ensure their child is reached quickly and assisted in an appropriate way.

Belle Vue Girls' Academy wants to encourage the **responsible** use of mobile phones so that the benefits that mobile phones provide can be enjoyed by all students.

### Responsibilities

- Parents/carers should be aware when their child takes a mobile phone to the academy.
- Students should ensure they keep their mobile phone safe at all times.
- Students who bring mobile phones to the academy should abide by the academy policy on mobile phone use.

### Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones should be switched off in the academy at all times (having phones switched to silent mode is not acceptable)
- Mobile phones may not be used in school (including the playground) at any time unless students have been given specific permission by a member of staff to use them for an educational purpose.

- Phones should remain in students bags or in pockets unless permission for their use has been given by a member of staff.
- Sixth form students may use mobile phones using soundless features in the sixth form study area.

### **Unacceptable use**

- Using a mobile phone in a time, location or manner that is not stated in the 'Acceptable use' section of this policy.
- Students using a mobile phone to inform parents they are sick or unwell, all such communication must go through the Pastoral Manager or school nurse.
- Students using a mobile phone to communicate with a parent or other person in response to a situation at school.
- Parents contacting students to inform them of a family emergency or situation.
- Students in possession of a mobile phone in exams or formal assessments.
- Students using vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone.
- Students using a phone to engage in personal attacks on another person; take/send photos, objectionable images or comments.
- Students using a mobile phone to record images or video without permission by a member of staff.

**It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. Any instances of inappropriate text/images/video on devices will be reported to the Police**

If a student is found to be using a mobile phone inappropriately, then the following procedures apply:

- On the first occasion a phone is confiscated, students may collect the phone from Pastoral Managers at the end of the day.
- On the second occasion, parents are informed via letter, email or phone call. The phone may be collected at the end of the following day by a parent from Pastoral Managers and an after school detention issued (30 minutes)
- On the third occasion, the phone will be confiscated for one week. Parents are asked to come into the academy to collect the phone. A 1 hour detention at the end of the day will also be issued.

- Any subsequent confiscations will result in a meeting with the student and parent and more serious consequences will be imposed.

Refusal to hand over a mobile phone when requested by a member of staff, will result in isolation and parents invited into the academy. In such cases, students will be required to hand in their phone each day to their Pastoral Manager.

Parents who are concerned about their child's use of mobile phones may find the following websites useful

<http://www.stoptextbully.com/help/15/advice-for-parents-and-teachers>

### **Theft or damage**

The academy cannot accept responsibility for mobile phones that go missing nor does it have the resources to conduct investigations into misplaced or stolen phones.

- Students should mark their mobile phone clearly with their name.
- To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them safe and secure in their personal bag or internal jacket pocket.
- Mobile phones that are found in the academy should be handed into reception.
- It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to secure their phone. Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential.
- Be aware lost and stolen mobile phones in the UK can be blocked across all networks making them virtually worthless because they cannot be used.