

# Mobile Phone Policy

(in conjunction with the Peninsula Multi Academy Trust)

Document owner	AHT Behaviour & Attitudes
Committee	Curriculum
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Date of next review	Summer 2027

## **Aims and Policy Statements**

Mobile phones are an integral part of society and the majority of students own a mobile phone. We understand that, for safety reasons, students may wish to carry a mobile phone whilst travelling to and from school. Mobile phones can, however, lead to safeguarding and well-being concerns such as on-line bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate internet usage. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of mobile phones, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that the negative effect they can have is minimised within school.

As a school, we strongly encourage our students to talk with one another and develop friendships during their free time, as opposed to using their mobile phones. As a result, the use of mobile phones on the school grounds is forbidden during school hours (8.35am – 3.15pm) and students found using their mobile phone on the premises will be dealt with according to this policy.

This policy has been written in accordance with:

- The Department for Education guidance document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) September 2024

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' includes all smart devices with mobile technology (for example, phones, watches, tablets, etc).

## **Procedures and Processes**

Misuse of a mobile phone will be dealt with using the same principles set out in the school Behaviour Policy, with the response being proportionate to the severity of the misuse.

During school hours (8.35am – 3.15pm), mobile phones must be switched off and placed in school bags or stored securely in lockers with any other valuable items.

The following rules apply, unless permission to the contrary has been granted by a member of staff:

- Mobile phones must remain switched off during school hours (8.35am – 3.15pm). This includes tutor period, all lessons, morning break, lunchtime, extra-curricular activities and any after school detention in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Any student using a mobile phone or found with their phone switched on whilst on the school grounds during the school day will have the phone confiscated.
- Confiscated phones will be taken to reception where the phone will be placed in secure storage and a phone call home will be made.
- Confiscated phones must be collected by a parent / carer from the school reception. If parents / carers are unable to collect their child's phone, reception staff will liaise with Year Leader / SLT and appropriate further action will be decided.
- At the 'end of day' students are only allowed to use their phone once they have been dismissed from their final lesson.
- Students are allowed to use their phone to contact home relating to safety / transport or for personal reasons after an extra-curricular activity, but they must first seek the permission of a member of staff.
- Year 12 and 13 students are only permitted to use their mobile phone in designated areas in the Sixth Form Centre (Lower and Upper Common Rooms).
- No student may take a mobile phone into an examination room or any other area where examinations are taking place.

- For any student who persistently breaches this policy, parents/carers will be contacted by the relevant Year Leader and a ban on mobile phone use may be enforced. Students may also receive further sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy for persistent breaches of this policy.
- Mobile phones will not be used during lessons or formal school time unless as part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity with consent from the teacher.
- The school reserves the right to search the content of any mobile phone on the school premises where there is a reasonable suspicion that it may contain illegal or undesirable material, including violence or material used for bullying purposes.
- Members of the Student Services Team and the Senior Leadership Team have the authority to check and supervise the removal of any inappropriate material from a student's mobile phone.
- Students and parents/carers are reminded that the school regularly checks internet sites and will involve external agencies, including the Police and Safer Schools Officer, if inappropriate content associated with members of the Weatherhead High School community is discovered.
- During spot checks, any issues of non-compliance will be addressed in line with this policy

Students bring valuable items into school at their own risk and lost or damaged possessions are not covered by school insurance. The school will, however, investigate any malicious issues of valuable items going missing but holds no responsibility for them.

The support of parents/carers is vital to ensure the school can apply the safeguarding requirements of this policy. The school, therefore, expects any parents/carers who need to contact their child during the school day to do so by phoning the school receptionist or relevant year team who will relay the message (and not by calling/texting their child which encourages them to be in breach of this policy).

### **Links to other Policies**

This policy should be viewed alongside the following Weatherhead High School policy documents:

- Student Acceptable Use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy