

Mobile Phones and Other Digital Technology Policy

Policy number	PS021
Applies to	Prep School
Endorsed by	Ian Silk
Responsibility	Ian Silk
Date reviewed	February 2020
Next review	March 2021

Mobile Phones

While accepting that mobile telephones are an aid to communication between parents and their sons, particularly over aspects such as late afternoon transport and returning from away games or activities, and whilst there are strong educational benefits if used appropriately, there is clear evidence that their use can be abused by boys.

School policy is that mobile telephones should be turned off during the school day and must not be used unless given specific permission by a member of staff.

In an emergency, parents should make contact with their son through the school secretary at the Prep School Reception (01234 362274). If appropriate, boys may be given permission to telephone their parents using the school phone. In the event of bad weather, it is particularly important that contact is made through the school office rather than by use of a boy's mobile phone.

Any mobile telephones brought to school should be stored safely. Mobile telephones are not covered by school insurance and under no circumstances will the school accept any liability for the loss or damage of mobile phones.

The school reserves the right to confiscate mobile telephones and withdraw permission to bring them into School if they are used inappropriately.

Other Electronic Devices

The school recognises that we live in a world of rapid change in the availability of digital technology and that there are many exciting opportunities to enhance learning by using a range of electronic devices, e.g. smartphones, iPads, smartwatches. Boys are able to connect to the internet using the school's wifi connection and this is what we would encourage them to use so that they are protected by our internet filters. If boys do bring a device to school which has a 3G/4G connection we would expect parents to have ensured that parental controls are activated. If permission is granted, boys should only use their own devices for school work during the school day in line with the "Computer Use" Policy. The playing of games is not allowed at any time during the school day – this includes after school and during late care whilst still on the school estate.

Acceptable Use of Electronic Devices

Whilst on the school estate, boys are not permitted to listen to music through the use of headphones. Schools are establishments where contact, communication and discussion are important, valuable and to be cherished. These must be sensibly protected. Students in school should not cocoon themselves in a world of their own within the community. In addition, boys need to be alert to warnings and instructions in order to keep themselves safe.

Secondly, the school has no wish to interfere with how any student uses his private time outside school. In the grey area of travel between school and home, while it is arguable that listening to music through headphones is a safety hazard (not hearing traffic noise or shouted warnings, as well as the danger of mugging), the school is well aware that enforcement is problematic and will therefore guide rather than insist in this area.

Rules

Boys should not use electronic gadgets at any time whilst on the school estate unless specific permission has been granted by a member of staff.

Infringements here will lead to confiscation.

NB You should be aware that the school cannot accept responsibility for any electronic devices lost or stolen on school premises.