

St Gabriel's RC High School

Culture and Standards Agreement - Appendix 1: Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale:

Mobile phones cause students significant distraction, when their attention must be focused on their learning, formation and personal development during the school day. Moreover, mobile phones can compromise the wellbeing of students and safety of our school community when used irresponsibly or inappropriately.

At St Gabriel's, we aim to:

- Keep all students safe.
- Continuously raise standards of conduct and behaviour.
- Sustain an environment where students demonstrate a love of learning free from unnecessary distraction.
- Support our students in growing to become well-rounded young adults with strong interpersonal and social communication skills.

A culture where students' interactions with others revolves around their mobile phones presents significant barriers to the achievement of these aims and can, in some cases, be dangerous.

As a result, we have strict regulations surrounding the use of mobile phones during the school day which all students and their parents/carers must adhere to. We ask students and parents/carers to consider the following to this end:

- Students phoning and/or sending messages disrupts teaching and learning.
- Texts and social media platforms can be used to bully other children.
- Mobile phones with cameras can be used to transmit images/videos of students and staff without their consent or permission.
- Examination boards regard mobile phones as a threat to examination security and enforce severe penalties upon candidates who bring mobile phones into the examination room with them.
- Mobile phones can constitute a 'fashion item' and potentially cause petty crime.
- When mobile phones are lost, damaged or stolen at school, valuable resources are deferred away from other school matters to resolve such situations.
- The receipt of notifications and communication via mobile phones during the day is a constant distraction to the mindset and focus of students.

Regulations:

- We understand that mobile phones have become a convenience of daily life and parents/carers want to be able to contact their children who are dependent on public transport. **We do allow students to bring mobile phones to school, but they should be switched off and kept out of sight from the morning warning bell at 8.35am until the end of the school day at 3.10pm.** The only exception to this is if a student needs to manage their diabetes by using their phone.
- Parents/carers must not contact their child using their mobile phone during the school day. Where parents/carers need to contact their child, including in emergency situations, they must do so by sending an e-mail or phoning the school office.
- Students must not contact their parents/carers using their mobile phone during the school day. Where students need to contact their parents/carers, including in instances of sickness, they must do so by asking the school office to phone home.

- Students must not access any social media platforms during the school day.
- Students must not photograph or video other students or members of staff under any circumstances.
- Students must not use their mobile phones to play games or listen to music. To this end, students are not permitted to bring headphones/earbuds into school.
- Mobile phones and other e-devices are the responsibility of students. They should be switched off and kept surely in their bags. Their loss or disappearance will not be investigated beyond what is reasonable, and the school accepts no responsibility for the loss of mobile phones or other e-devices which students have chosen to bring on to school premises.
- Considering concerns nationally about the uses to which images can be put, we ask all parents/carers to be sensitive about taking photographs or videos using mobile phones, cameras or video-recorders at school events. Please follow the instructions of the supervising staff about their use.
- The school may correspond with parents/carers via SMS and therefore we ask that parents/carers engage with Arbor and Satchel One Show My Homework to keep up to date with their child's rewards, sanctions, home learning, attendance and timetable.

Sanctions:

If a student is seen to be using a mobile phone or any other e-device during a lesson without permission from their teacher, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school by the member of staff and stored in the school office. The student will be able to collect their mobile phone/device at the end of the school day from the school office.

If a student is seen to using a mobile phone or any other e-device between 8.40am – 3.10pm without given permission from a staff member, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school by the member of staff and stored in the school office. The student will be able to collect their mobile phone/device at the end of the school day from the school office.

If a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone/electronic device to the member of staff, they will be placed into the Reflections Room (St Gabriel's internal isolation unit) for a full day. Therefore, for example, if a student is placed into Reflections Room lesson four, they will remain in the Reflections Room until the end of lesson 3 the next day. It is important to note that if a student is in the Reflections Room lesson five, they have an automatic after school detention until 3:45pm.

Where a mobile phone or other e-device has been confiscated, the member of staff will take the device to the school office, where it will be kept securely until the end of the school day (3.10pm). If a student is completing an after-school detention, the device will be kept until the end of their detention (3.45pm). After this time, students should collect their devices prior to leaving school.

Repeated breaches of this policy will be escalated to the student's Pastoral and Progress Leader (Head of Year), with parents/carers required to attend a meeting in school to agree a solution.

The school reserves the right to examine devices if a member of staff suspects that these rules have been broken. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Lead reserve the right to search content on devices where they have reasonable grounds to do so. This will be done in the presence of the student and a second member of staff.