



Mobile phones and e-devices

Mobile phones and e-devices are not allowed to be used in school. These items do cause significant distraction and can compromise the safety of our school community. At St Gabriel's our aim is to raise the standards of learning and improve the outcomes for all our children. A culture where learning and social interaction revolves, for some pupils, almost exclusively around their mobile phones, is dangerous.

Rationale

Safety and Safeguarding

- Students phoning and texting disrupts learning and teaching
- Texting can be used to bully other children
- Mobiles with a photograph / video capability can be used to transmit images of pupils
- Public examination boards regard mobile devices as a threat to examination security
- They can constitute a 'fashion item' and potentially cause petty crime
- When stolen or lost, valuable resources are used attempting to find them

We understand that mobile devices have become a convenience of daily life and parents want to be able to contact their children who are dependent on public transport. We do allow students to bring mobile devices to school but they must be switched off **and kept out of sight** from **8.45am to the end of the school day at 3.25pm - including break and lunchtime.**

Aims of our policy

We aim to ensure that:

- Learning and teaching are not interrupted
- Pupils/students are safe
- Pupils/students can be contacted in school during the day without the use of mobile phones via a range of means, including in an emergency
- When it is necessary, students have the means to make emergency contact after school

Our regulations about mobile devices

- Students must not use a mobile device anywhere in school during the school day, except under the specific direction of a teacher in lessons for the purpose of learning
- Students must not photograph or video other students under any circumstances, and must not photograph or video staff
- Parents wishing to contact their son/daughter during the school day must contact school through the well-established and efficient systems (for example, email or telephone). Pupils/students who need to contact parents during the course of the school day should approach the reception or speak to their Form Teacher and/or Head of Year, who will

make a phone available

- Mobile devices in school are the students' responsibility. They should be switched off and kept securely in bags or pockets. Their loss or disappearance will not be investigated beyond what is 'reasonable'
- If mobile devices are seen, heard or are used by pupils, sanctions will be applied in line with the policy
- The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of mobile devices which have been brought onto school premises.

In light of concerns nationally about the uses to which images can be put, we ask all parents to be sensitive about taking photographs using mobile phones, cameras or video-recorders at school events. Please follow the instructions of the supervising staff about their use.

Sanctions

If a pupil is seen to be using a mobile phone or other e-device, then it will be confiscated by the teacher and kept securely at reception, where the incident will be logged and the device held until the end of the school day (3.25pm). The device can then be collected from the school reception

If a device is confiscated for a second time, it will be returned at the end of that school week, at 3.25pm, or to a parent, collecting it in person, before that time.

On a third occasion, we will contact you to request a meeting after which the device will be returned.

Mobile devices in classrooms – Guidance to parents & students

We know that mobile devices are going to have an increasingly important role in learning, and teachers may decide that students can use them in lessons where they are beneficial for a specific purpose.

We will continue to ensure safe and responsible use of ICT and mobile devices to protect staff and students, and the following rules apply in everyone's interest.

- Students who use mobile devices in lessons must do so only as directed by the teacher. For example, teachers may permit web access during a lesson, but students would not be allowed to take photographs unless they were given specific permission
- The school reserves the right to examine mobile devices if a member of staff suspects that these rules have been broken. This will be done in the presence of the student and a second member of staff. The Headteacher has a legal right to search such devices where s/he has reasonable grounds to do so