

THE KING'S SCHOOL



Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, MP3 Players and other Electronic Devices Policy

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MOBILE PHONES, SMART WATCHES, MP3 PLAYERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

MOBILE PHONES – POSSESSION & USE

Mobile phones are a part of modern society and the school accepts that many students will possess mobile phones. They are a useful tool, especially where the issue of safety during the journey to and from school is concerned, and the school acknowledges that parents and students would want them to be available to achieve this. However, teachers and students have a right to teach and learn in a school environment which is free from interruption by mobile phones and other such devices.

Mobile phones in schools present a number of challenges. These include:

- Mobile phones interrupting lessons and disrupting the learning of others;
- Possible theft of mobile phones;
- Requirements from public examination boards regarding mobile phones in examination rooms;
- The ever-increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology which increases the possibilities of inappropriate use;
- The need for students to be responsible with regard to the care of their possessions.

The school recognises the benefits that mobile phones offer students and parents and realises that an outright ban would result in a loss of these benefits. However, it is the school's responsibility to promote the safe and responsible use of mobile phones during the school day. Whilst the school would prefer students not to have mobile phones in school but rather use the existing facilities within the school, we realise that this cannot cover the period when students are travelling to and from school. It is against the above background that the following policy is adopted.

POLICY

- Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school, especially on days when they have PE, DT, Art or Science, when they are required to remove jackets.
- Parents are reminded that urgent messages can be transmitted by both students and parents via the school office.

If parents choose to permit their sons to bring a mobile phone to school, the following rules apply:

- The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones and undertakes no responsibility to investigate misplacement, loss or theft.
- Mobile phones may not be used at any time during the school day on the school premises. Parents needing to contact students can do so by calling the school office.
- Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight at all times. If a phone rings or is seen by a member of staff, or if inappropriate use is made of the phone, it will be confiscated. Students are required to explain this to parents and the phone will only be returned to parents. If the offence is repeated the phone will be confiscated, only returned to parents and an after-school detention issued with a member of SLT. Should the offence be repeated a third time the student may not bring a mobile phone to school at any time. The student will also receive an internal exclusion.
- Confiscated phones should be handed to the Head Master's PA. A record of the offence will be kept and recorded on SIMS.
- Mobile phones which have a calculator, music or camera facility may only be used in class following express instruction to do so from the class teacher concerned.
- Sixth Form students are only allowed to use mobile phones in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Mobile phones must not be brought into school by students on days when they have public examinations, in order to comply with the strict rules from the examination boards that such devices must not be taken into examination rooms.

SMART WATCHES

Smart Watches are not allowed in school and are banned from all public examinations.

POLICY

- The school accepts no responsibility for smart watches and undertakes no responsibility to investigate misplacement, loss or theft.
- Smart watches may not be used at any time during the school day on the school premises.
- If a smart watch rings or is seen by a member of staff it will be confiscated. Students are required to explain this to parents and the watch will only be returned to parents. If the offence is repeated the watch will be confiscated, only returned to parents and an after-school detention issued with a member of SLT. Should the offence be repeated a third time the student will receive an internal exclusion.
- Confiscated smart watches should be handed to the Head Master's PA. A record of the offence will be kept and recorded on SIMS.
- Smart watches are banned from all public examinations.

MP3 PLAYERS & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The school is concerned over the safety of students using these devices as they travel to and from school. However, whilst most students do not need to bring such equipment into school each day, the school accepts that in some subject areas staff may feel that music is conducive to the work produced and would want to give students the option to listen to music. It is for this reason that the following policy is applied:

POLICY

- Students are discouraged from bringing such devices into school, especially on days when they have PE.

If parents permit their sons to bring these devices into school, the following rules apply:

- The school accepts no responsibility for these and undertakes no responsibility to investigate misplacement, loss or theft.
- Wires, ear pieces etc must remain out of sight and not in any way affect appearance or school uniform.
- Use in class, the Library or any other area of the school during lesson time is at the discretion of the individual member of staff. They must not be used in corridors/stairwells whilst students are moving between lessons nor should they be used in any part of the school at break or lunch.
- Failure to adhere to the instructions regarding appearance will result in confiscation. Students will have to explain this to parents and the device will only be returned to parents. If the offence is repeated the device will be confiscated, only returned to parents and an after-school detention issued with a member of SLT. Should the offence be repeated a third time the student may not bring the device to school at any time. The student will also receive an internal exclusion.
- MP3 players and other electronic devices must not be brought into school by students on days when they have public examinations, in order to comply with the strict rules from the examination boards pertaining to electronic devices.

INSURANCE

Parents are reminded to ensure that they have adequate insurance for their son's possessions.

Reviewed:	November 2016
To be Reviewed:	November 2020