



Oldfield School Mobile Phone Policy

Purpose

Mobile phones and digital music players have become more widely available. As a school, we must make a sensible and practical response. We understand that parents wish their daughters to carry a mobile phone for the reasons of personal safety. It is worth noting that there may be health concerns connected with the use of mobile phones and the general availability of these devices can also increase the occurrence of negative behaviour, e.g. cyber bullying. This policy should therefore be used in conjunction with the ICT Policy, the Internet and Email Policy, the ICT Code of Conduct and the Anti-Bullying Policy.

Content

This policy covers the bringing to school of mobile phones and digital music players, for example MP3 players or iPods. Other communications devices, for example, pagers, remain banned. The policy is applicable to students in Years 7-11.

Sixth Formers are expected to use their mobile phones discretely, ie in the Sixth Form area only.

Implementation

- ~ Students, at parental request, are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school for emergency use. Parents must sign in the contact book to indicate their agreement.
- ~ Students are allowed to bring a digital music player to school for use during the journey to school and at break and lunchtimes. Students must not use their music player during lesson times, or whilst walking around the school site.
- ~ Students are not allowed to use other students' phones or equipment.
- ~ Phones must be switched off and out of sight (in a bag or locker) during the school day, including break and lunchtime.
- ~ Mobile phones or digital music players, must not, under any circumstances, be taken into public examinations.
- ~ Oldfield School accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to the phone or digital music player but it is recommended that, if brought to school, it is clearly labelled, as with all possessions brought to school.
- ~ Parents should not contact their daughters during the day by mobile phone, (the school office is able to take these messages).
- ~ Students who become ill during the day must not use their mobile phones to contact parents, they should use the established procedure.
- ~ If a student abuses the code of conduct by using their digital music player or mobile phone at inappropriate times, the equipment (including SIM card in the case of mobile phones) will be confiscated. A first offence will mean it may be collected by the student at the end of the day; a second offence will result in the student's parent collecting the equipment and the privilege of bringing this type of equipment to school being withdrawn from that student for the remainder of the school year.
- ~ Should the student continue to bring a phone or digital music player to school after it has been banned, it will be confiscated and secured in the school safe, resulting in the parent collecting the phone or music player at the end of term.
- ~ Staff can check the list of 'banned' students in the school office.

Monitoring

All members of staff will monitor the use of mobile phones and digital music players in accordance with this policy.

Evaluation

On a regular basis we will review the situation to check that the policy is appropriate and workable. The review will include consultation with parents, staff and students.