

Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones and technology are part of modern life and the majority of students own a mobile phone with access to the internet. We understand that for safety reasons students will carry a mobile phone in order to contact parents/carers after school/before school; however, mobile phones can lead to several problems in school such as bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media that leads to safeguarding issues. In addition, at the McKee, we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally, by talking to each other and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones.

In line with most schools, the use of mobile phones during school hours is completely forbidden and students found using their mobile phone during school hours will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Purpose

1. To clarify the school position on mobile phones.
2. To ensure that staff, students and parents are fully conversant with the policy and understand the reasons for the policy.
3. To support our behaviour management policy, which is in place to support the safety, positive behaviour and learning of all our students.
4. To ensure that student welfare and safeguarding incidents associated with mobile phones are minimised.

Guidelines and Procedure

1. Mobile phones must remain out of sight and switched off during school hours. **This includes break and lunchtimes.** Phones must not be seen or heard.
2. Any student seen using their mobile phone during school hours, **including break and lunchtimes**, will have their phone confiscated. This is for any reason. Refusal to hand over the mobile phone will result in exclusion.
3. Confiscated phones must be taken to reception where the phone will be stored and the name of the student will be recorded. In the first instance the phone may be returned to the student at the end of the school day by our behaviour manager.
4. For any further breaches of the policy by the same student will require parents or carers to collect the mobile phone from school. Further sanctions will be applied which are proportionate to the level of disruption caused.
5. We appreciate that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. We ask parents and carers to inform us of this as soon as possible and students will be allowed to use the school phone to speak to home. The mobile phone ban will remain in place.
6. When issues with mobile phones exist that involve serious misuse of the phone such as transmitting images or cyber bullying, parents will be brought into school and the Malicious Communications Act will be explained to them. This states that parents are responsible for the phone and any issues resulting from the phone when it is used by a 'minor'.

