

YSGOL UWCHRADD ABERHONDDU BRECON HIGH SCHOOL



Mobile Phone Policy

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Rationale

Over recent years there has been a huge culture shift regarding mobile phones, especially smart phones. They are used by the general public as a useful tool but specifically by our pupils to access educational apps such as Show My Homework, GCSEpod, etc. A complete ban on mobile phones in school would, therefore, be near sighted, outdated and fail to recognise their educational value. However, we believe that we should be preparing young people to use modern technology in a safe and responsible way.

Clearly any policy that includes approved use of mobile phones must be direct and precise. Also the abuse of this privilege must have clear direct consequences. The failure of a pupil to adhere to this policy will result in their privilege to carry a mobile phone in school being withdrawn

Acceptable Uses

- In the case of an emergency, parents/carers are requested to contact the school's reception first (rather than their child) so that staff are made aware of any potential problem and can make any necessary arrangements to support their child.
- Pupils' mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight during lessons and while moving between lessons.
- On occasions, staff may wish to utilise mobile devices, with or without headphones, as a teaching and learning tool. In these circumstances, pupils may use their mobile phones in the classroom when express permission has been given by the teacher. However, pupils must not use their phone for any other purpose other than that agreed by the member of staff.
- Pupils may use their mobile phones during break and dinnertime. They can access the internet, listen to music through headphones and play games.
- When talking to a member of staff, a pupil must put their phone away if requested; using the phone whilst a member of staff is talking to you is poor manners.

Unacceptable Uses

- Pupils must not use their phones, or wear headphones, whilst in or walking along the corridors, or waiting outside classrooms at any time of the day.
- Pupils must not use their mobile phones whilst eating in the Hall at lunchtime.
- Pupils must not play music through speakers, leave their headphones hanging out from their shirt, or use the phone as a means of ignoring staff or disrupting lessons.
- Mobile phones are not allowed to be used in the classroom unless with the express permission of staff. Staff will never give permission for pupils to listen to their own music in class (even through headphones).
- Pupils must not use a mobile phone in an exam (as per Exam Board regulations) – even as a calculator. Mobile phones are collected by Exam Invigilators prior to every public exam and are kept safely until the exam finishes. Pupils must always hand their phone in before the start of an exam or leave it at home.
- Whilst on school premises/activities, pupils must NEVER use their mobile phone to photograph or film any pupil, member of staff or visitor.

- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other pupils is unacceptable. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour. If the use of mobile technology humiliates, embarrasses or causes offence, it is unacceptable and such behaviour will be dealt with in accordance with Appendix 1 of the school's Anti Bullying policy.

Sanctions

- Pupils who infringe the rules set out in this policy will have their phones confiscated by staff.
- On the first and second infringement of this policy, the mobile phone will be confiscated and taken to a secure place for storage. The pupil will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day (3:30pm at the earliest). A record will be made of the incident.
- On the third infringement parents/carers will be asked to collect the phone from school.
- Should a pupil refuse to hand over their phone to a member of staff, the matter will be referred to their PGM or a member of the SLT and will result in further sanctions in accordance with the Behaviour policy.

Sixth Form

The mobile phone policy applies to Sixth Form pupils with the following exceptions:

- Sixth Form pupils may use their mobile phones, connected to a speaker, to play music in the Common Room during their non-contact time, providing the volume of the music does not disturb lessons.
- Sixth Form pupils may use their mobile phones with headphones whilst engaging in independent study in the Quiet room or Sixth Form Common room.

Contact with parents/carers

- Arrangements for a pupil to leave school premises can only be made via direct parental/carer contact with the school. If a pupil is ill they **MUST** see the Wellbeing Co-ordinator, their PGM or a member of SLT.
- Pupils must not phone their parent/carer from a mobile phone and arrange to go home, unless directed to do so by staff.
- Should parents/carers need to collect their child from school during school hours, they **MUST** contact the school directly.

Disclaimer

Pupils are not required to have a mobile phone in school. We support parents/carers, who make the decision that their child will not bring a mobile phone to school, by ensuring that pupils have access to school landlines to contact parents/carers in the case of an emergency. Parents/carers can, of course, also contact school via the landline should they wish to get a message to their child. This policy does, however, recognise that the majority of our pupils do own a mobile phone. Any pupil who brings a mobile phone into school does so at their own risk and school will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.