

Burscough Priory Science College

Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Phones and Cameras.

1. Purpose

1.1. The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at schools. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

1.2. Burscough Priory has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

1.3. Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before students are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.

1.4. The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

2. Rationale

2.1. Personal safety and security Burscough Priory accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

3. Responsibility

3.1. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

3.2. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers.

3.3. Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

3.4. Permission to have a mobile phone at school while under the school's supervision is contingent on parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of the acceptable use policy.

Parents/carers may revoke approval at any time.

3.5. Pupils are responsible for keeping the school informed of their current mobile phone number.

4. Acceptable Uses

4.1. Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight during classroom lessons and while in the school building. Exceptions may be permitted only in exceptional circumstances if the parent/carer specifically requests it. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis and should be directed to Mrs Walton Dr Clarke. Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

4.2. While on school premises, students should use soundless features such as text messaging, answering services, call diversion and vibration alert to receive important calls.

4.3. Mobile phones should not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine, except in school designated areas only (Common room, Performing Arts, Art and ICT area with the acknowledgement of the teacher in charge).

4.4. Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the student's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the receipt of insulting, threatening or unpleasant voice, text and picture messages.

4.5. The school recognises the importance of emerging technologies present in modern mobile phones e.g. camera and video recording, internet access, MP3 and MP4 playback, blogging etc. In the future teachers may wish to utilise these functions to aid teaching and learning and pupils may have the opportunity to use their mobile phones in the classroom. On these occasions pupils may use their mobile phones in the classroom when express permission has been given by the teacher and permission has been sort from Dr Clarke head teacher.

5. Unacceptable Uses

5.1. Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during school lessons and other educational activities, such as assemblies. Mobile phones are only to be used in the event of an emergency and with permission from a member of staff.

5.2. The Bluetooth function of a mobile phone must be switched off at all times and not be used to send images or files to other mobile phones.

5.3. Mobile phones must not disrupt classroom lessons with ringtones, music or beeping.

5.4. Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour and police will be informed in such cases.

5.5. It is forbidden for students to "gang up" on another student and use their mobile phones to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate and humiliate that student and then send the pictures to other students or upload it to a website for public viewing.

This also includes using mobile phones to photograph or film any student without their consent. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.

5.6. Mobile phones are not to be used or taken into changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the school.

5.7. Should there be repeated disruptions to lessons caused by a mobile phone, the responsible student may face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the head teacher.

5.8. Photographing or filming staff or other students without their knowledge or permission. Photographing or filming in toilets, and changing rooms and similar areas.

5.9. Bullying, harassing or intimidating staff or students by the use of text, email or multimedia messaging, sending inappropriate messages or posts to social networking or blogging sites

5.10. Refusing to switch a phone off or handing over the phone at the request of a member of staff. Using the mobile phone outside school hours to intimidate or upset staff and students will be considered a breach of these guidelines in the same way as unacceptable use which takes place in school time.

5.11. Staff should not use mobile phones to take pictures/videos of students in their lesson, but seek permission from the Head teacher if deemed necessary for educational purposes the use of the schools own facilities will be deemed appropriate and must not be taken home.

5.12. Parents taking photographs during school concerts. The school is keen to promote our activities and develop a sense of community therefore realises that parents will want to take photographs of their children during concerts. The school will permit photographs to be taken by parents during a school concert provided:

- The performance is not subject to copyright
- The images are not used for publicity or the local press without permission from the school.

Support for the Victim

Where an incident has involved the victimisation, harassment, alarm or distress of another student or member of staff, the school will provide support for the victim. This should be discussed with the victim's family or where the incident involves a member of staff, appropriate support should be obtained. This might be the DSP to support the rehabilitation of a victim the following support may be offered in consultation with the victim and their family. The school may:

- Follow up with the victim and family and agree a suitable way forward to facilitate an effective closure for the victim to the incident.

- Implement the institution's 'restorative practice' procedures. Where the perpetrator agrees, participation in this process will be included as part of their reintegration programme following the incident.
- Where “restorative practice” does not take place then other avenues to support the victim should be tried e.g. Cyber mentors, Child line
- School will also ensure that the perpetrator, and any others involved, are educated about the impact of their actions on the victim
- School will ensure a fully documented case history of the incident is recorded and secured in the relevant area of the institution's MIS
- Senior staff should consider if an education programme should be implemented as part of SMSC or eSafety lessons
- Where material has been posted online about a victim, school will provide support in getting the material removed either through discussion with the poster of the material or contact with the service provider. Help for this can be provided through the LA.

6. Theft or damage

6.1. Students should mark their mobile phone clearly with their names.

6.2. Students who bring a mobile phone to school should leave it locked away in their locker/bag when they arrive. To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed and not ‘advertise’ they have them.

6.3. Mobile phones that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to front office reception.

6.4. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

6.5. The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

6.6. It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords may not be shared.

6.7. Lost and stolen mobile phones in the U.K. can be blocked across all networks making them virtually worthless because they cannot be used.

7. Inappropriate conduct

7.1. Any student/s caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the head teacher.

7.2. Any student who uses vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the head teacher.

7.3. Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the head teacher

[It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the headteacher is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.]

8. Sanctions

8.1. Students who infringe the rules set out in this document could face having their phones confiscated by teachers.

8.2. On the first infringement of this policy the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. The student will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day and a record will be made of the incident. A letter will also be sent to the parent/carer to inform them of the incident. The location and form of the secure place will be one deemed appropriate by the management team.

8.3. On the second infringement the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. Parents will be notified and the pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone without a parent/carer's consent. If a parent/carer is unable to attend the school they are permitted to phone and give verbal consent for their child to collect the phone and must speak to a member of the management team. The incident will be recorded.

8.4. On the third infringement the mobile phone would be confiscated by the teacher and taken to a secure place within the school office. Parents will be notified and the pupil will not be permitted to collect the phone without a parent/carer present. After the third infringement the school will withdraw the agreement to allow the student to bring the mobile telephone to school.

8.5. As set out in the previous section, failure to heed the rules set out in this document may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or carer would be notified immediately.

Parent/Guardian Permission

I have read and understand the above information about appropriate use of mobile phones at Burscough Priory and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school and that the details may be used (and shared with a third party, if necessary) to assist identify a phone should the need arise (e.g. if lost, or if the phone is being used inappropriately).

I give my child permission to carry a mobile phone to school and understand that my child will be responsible for ensuring that the mobile phone is used appropriately and correctly while under the school’s supervision, as outlined in this document.

Parent name (print)

Parent signature

Date _____

Student name (print)

Student mobile phone number _____

Student signature

Date _____

If you have any comments or suggestions, please write them below
