

# Mobile Phones Policy

## **RULES ON MOBILE PHONES (OR ANY DEVICE WHICH CAN TRANSMIT OR RECEIVE)**

In the past schools have experienced serious problems caused by pupils using mobile phones in school. These include: -

- Pupils using them during classes.
- Pupils having obscene pictures on their phones.
- Pupils taking pictures of pupils without permission.
- Pupils transferring inappropriate photos of other pupils.
- Pupils sending obscene pictures to any phone in the area.
- Pupils filming incidents of assault.
- Mobile phones being lost when at PE etc.

It has been suggested that phones should not be allowed in our school but we appreciate that they are useful to pupils in emergency situations going to and from school. However, there is no need for them when the pupils are in school.

### **Sensible use**

- While mobile phones are seriously discouraged, pupils will not be banned from bringing them to school but they must never be used or seen out at any time in school, within school grounds or on school buses. (Pupils may use phones after extra-curricular activities to contact parents/guardians.)
- No teacher or department will look after a mobile phone for a pupil and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to any phone; pupils therefore bring them to school completely at their own risk.
- No mobile phone is allowed, during an exam, in any room being used for an exam (either on the pupil or in a bag).

### **Sanctions**

- Staff should exercise their own judgement as to whether a phone has become 'accidentally' visible e.g. by slipping out of someone's pocket. This will result in the phone being confiscated until the end of the school day.
- Confiscated phones should be passed to the office with a note of the pupil's name and (if appropriate) a note of the circumstances.
- If this happens on more than one occasion the phone will be confiscated until a parent/guardian can collect the phone.
- Phones with a video facility are now relatively commonplace. However, where a pupil has videoed a member of staff or a fellow pupil without his/her consent, the consequences for the perpetrator will be severe i.e. suspension and possible referral to the Police according to the precise circumstances.

### **IPODS/MP3 PLAYERS**

- Can be used when travelling to/from school, at breaktimes/lunchtimes, but should not be used during class time.
- Staff will not be responsible for items of value such as MP3 players