



Congleton High School

Achieving Success Together

Mobile Phone Policy

Approved by Governors October 2022

Mobile phone technology has advanced significantly in recent years and is likely to continue to do so. Mobile phones are no longer just a means of communicating, but perform a variety of functions, many of which are usually found on a personal computer. However, mobile phones can be immensely distracting in the classroom for both pupils and their teachers. This technology can also be used for acts of bullying and intimidation. We want to support staff and students to make sure mobile phones are never a barrier to learning or a cause of disruption. It is therefore, essential that there is a clear policy that students, parents and staff understand and can adhere to, so that mobile technology does not detract from teaching and learning and allows everyone to work and learn in safety.

At Congleton High School, students are not permitted to use mobile phones and other electronic/digital devices in school unless specifically authorised and monitored by a member of staff in exceptional circumstances. If mobile phones and other electronic devices are brought into school, they must be kept in bags and switched off or on silent. This also applies on school trips and visits and at any other time when the child is representing Congleton High School. Students remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

If a student is using (or allowing another student to use) a mobile phone or other electronic/digital device without permission from staff, will be confiscated, put in an envelope, with the student's name on and taken to Student Reception for collection at the end of the day. A second offence will result in the phone being kept until parents collect it and any further offences will require the student and their parent/carer to have a meeting with a senior member of staff. Consequences will also be issued in line with the RBFL policy.

If a student is out of lessons during the school day as a result of their behaviour or during the investigation of a serious incident, they will have their phone confiscated for that period. If a student is ill, the school will contact home, not the student. For any other emergency, a student should go to student reception where a member of staff will contact home or the student will be allowed to use their mobile phone under supervision. If a parent/carer needs to contact their child in an emergency this should be done via the school telephone system.

The way in which pupils relate to one another online can have a significant impact on the culture at school. Negative interactions online can damage the school's culture and can lead to school feeling like an unsafe place. Behaviour issues online can be very difficult to manage given issues of anonymity, and online incidents occur both on and off the school premises. Schools should be clear that even though the online space differs in many ways, the same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline, and that everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity.

Inappropriate online behaviour including bullying, the use of inappropriate language, the soliciting and sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the same principles as offline behaviour. If a member of staff has any suspicion that a mobile device has unsuitable material stored on it, students will be required to hand over the device to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile device may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence, the device will be handed over to the Police for further investigation. Parents will need to recover the device from the Police in such circumstances.

Many online behaviour incidents amongst young people occur outside the school day and off the school premises. Parents are responsible for this behaviour.

However, often incidents that occur online will affect the school culture. Congleton high School will issue consequences to students when their behaviour online poses a threat or causes harm to another student, and/or could have repercussions for the people orderly running of the school, when the pupil is identifiable as a member of the school or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

The following are examples of misuse (the list is not exhaustive). 'Misuse' will be at the discretion of the Headteacher:

- sending inappropriate messages
- sending inappropriate messages or posts to social networking or blogging sites
- taking photographs and/or videos in school or photographing or filming staff or other students without their knowledge or permission
- photographing or filming in toilets, changing rooms and similar areas
- bullying, harassing, humiliating or intimidating staff or students by the use of text, email or multimedia messaging
- refusing to switch a phone off or hand 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
- using a mobile phone outside school hours in such a way that it undermines the stability of the school and compromises its ability to fulfil the stated aim of providing 'a clear moral and ethical lead'
- the deliberate engineering of situations where people's reactions are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience such as on Facebook or YouTube
- bullying by text, image and email messaging
- the use of a mobile phone for 'sexting' (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)
- posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others
- making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other students
- general disruption to learning caused by students accessing phones in lessons
- students phoning parents

- students phoning parents immediately following an incident so that the ability of staff to deal with an incident is compromised or publishing photographs of vulnerable students, who may be on a child protection plan, where this may put them at additional risk.

Linked policies and documents-

SEND policy

SEMH policy

RBFL policy

Anti-bullying policy

Behaviour In Schools DfE August 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089687/Behaviour_in_Schools_guidance_July_2022.pdf#