



Student Mobile Phone Policy

This policy is applicable to Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton

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1. Introduction

The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton recognises and accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. Many students travel alone on public transport, commute long distances to school and/or take part in extra-curricular activities outside of normal school hours.

However, mobile phones have also introduced the challenges outlined in the national statistics below:

- 7 in 10 admitted that they had been victims of cyberbullying
- 1 in 4 experience this on a daily basis
- Girls used to be more likely to be bullied than boys, but now boys are just as likely as girls to be subjected to online bullying
- 75% of those surveyed use social media – over half of those with Facebook profiles had experienced cyberbullying there.
- Only 15% of parents think their children are safe online
- Over half surveyed used the internet in their own room
- 3 out of 4 children over the age of 12 have a mobile phone
- 1 in 4 children ignore age restriction on sites, whether to gain access or to create profiles
- 1 in 25 teenagers have received online sexual solicitations with the offender seeking to contact them offline.
- Teenagers are now spending on average around 30 hours per week online

There is considerable evidence that mobile phone use in schools, harms student attainment. A study by the London School of Economics (Centre for Economic Performance) found that a mobile phone ban in school has a material effect on the chances of a student achieving good GCSEs. A ban is also linked to lower levels of disruption, reduced behavioural concerns and has a significant beneficial impact on children's educational progress.

With the above information coming to light, legislation allows schools and Head Teachers to ban mobile phones from their school premises. This is supported by the Department for Education and OFSTED.

TKAW Mobile Phone Ban

The use of mobile phones/smart devices (if seen/heard) on our site is now prohibited.

To avoid confiscations pupils should not bring mobile phones and electronic devices to school. If a pupil does bring a phone or other electronic item to school they should turn this off and store it in their bag before entering the school site.

Furthermore, any student found to have used their device inappropriately, will be asked to hand it in as and when required by SLT and the Pastoral Team.

Sanctions

If a mobile phone or smart device is seen, heard or found to be on anywhere on the school grounds, it will be confiscated and held in the school safe until the end of the relevant half term/until collected by a parent/carer (please note that the only people who can collect are those who are on our school system – parents/carers/legal guardians; older siblings, relatives and family friends will not be allowed to collect confiscated devices).

Any student found with a mobile phone will also be given a B Code detention (1 hour) that will be sat in accordance with the school behaviour policy.

If a pupil hesitates (even slightly) in handing over a confiscated item, they will receive a 1-hour detention and remain in isolation until they hand the device over.

Accessories, including headphones or chargers will also be confiscated but left to collect in reception on the same day.

FAQ

Can my child bring a phone to school?

Yes, provided that it remains switched off and kept in their school bag. It cannot be used in the school grounds (once the student moves beyond the school gates).

What if my child needs to contact me?

The safety of our children, particularly on the journey to and from school is of paramount importance. This is why once off the school site/outside the school gate, children will be able to switch on and use their phones to make any contact as needed.

Children will be able to use the school phones to make any parental contact. This facility can be used by speaking to the pastoral team (including form tutors) or reporting to the school administration/pastoral area.

How will I know that my child is in school/has arrived safely?

Please be assured that if a child does not turn up for school the school will contact the family directly within an hour of the morning register being taken. This reduces the need for pupils to carry phones.