



‘Ready, Respectful, Safe’

Mobile Technology Policy

March 2021

Rationale

While mobile phones can play an important part in securing pupils' personal safety before and after school, there is an emerging body of evidence pointing to incidences of mobile phone misuse, including, text bullying, improper use of images and other forms of harassment.

There are also links between mobile phone use contributing towards anxiety and a range of other mental health issues which are becoming increasingly common among young people in Scotland. As advances in mobile phone technology continue and young people live out more and more aspects of their lives in a digital realm, schools have a responsibility to encourage a healthy balance in mobile phone use. This responsibility has increased in light of concerns from employers about the negative effects of excessive phone use on productivity in the workplace among young workers.

Our Mobile Technology Policy is designed to strike a balance between allowing young people access to technology, while also allowing them freedom to learn without distraction as well as working within the policies and procedures of Aberdeen City Council to educate pupils in the appropriate use of mobile phones and manage appropriately incidents of their misuse.

Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones

Pupils will continue to be allowed to bring a phone to school. This is in response to parental concerns about pupil safety, is in line with Scottish government advice and will also allow mobile phones to be used in classrooms when deemed appropriate by teachers.

The Pupil Council have been working closely with our Senior Leadership Team to develop a clear Mobile Technology Policy and have created posters for each teaching area to remind pupils/ staff of the expectations surrounding use of mobile technology in school.

Red zones = teaching areas, corridors/ stairwells and changing rooms.

- Mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight during lessons to avoid distractions/ interruptions to Learning and Teaching.
There may be occasions where pupils are invited to use their mobile phone by the class teacher for the purposes of learning; the calculator function, recording homework tasks or conducting research etc – teachers will give specific permission to pupils in these cases.
- Mobile phones should also be away when travelling through corridors and up/ down stairwells between lessons to keep pupils safe. When moving around the school all earphones should also be removed and out of sight. This is a health and safety matter when moving around the building as pupils cannot hear as well with earphones in.
- Mobile phones should also be switched off and out of sight in PE changing rooms to ensure that pupil's privacy is respected.

Amber zones = library.

- Senior pupils have permission to use their mobile phone in the library provided it is being used for classwork or tasks.

Green zones = dinner hall, outside areas.

- Mobile phones may be used before school, during interval and lunchtime in the dining hall and any areas outside.

Advice for Parents

For parents wishing to contact their child during the school day, we would appreciate if they could contact the school office (01224 699715) and ask for a message to be relayed.

Permission to use a phone's camera at school functions or on school trips should be confirmed with the member of staff leading the activity.

We would greatly appreciate our parents supporting this Mobile Technology policy. Parents have a particularly important role to play in monitoring and counselling their son/ daughter on the appropriate use of their mobile phone.

Dealing with Inappropriate Use

In circumstances of inappropriate use, a range of consequences may be applied. In some instances, this may involve contact with the parent/carer.

Any young person whose phone use repeatedly breaches this acceptable use policy will be interviewed by SLT and parents will be contacted. In extreme cases (hopefully rare), parents may be called to school and the right of that young person to have a mobile phone during the school day will be withdrawn temporarily.

At no point should phones be used for unauthorised photographing or recording of any pupil, school visitor or member of staff. In serious instances like this, the school may elect to involve our School Based Police Officer – PC McKenzie.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

As with all high value items the school is aware of the potential for theft and the consequences of loss. While we will make every possible effort to track lost or misplaced mobile phones through our normal lost property procedures the school does not accept responsibility for replacement of mobile phones.