

## **Mobile Phone Policy**

### **Rationale**

Since the installation of the 4G mast near Glenalmond in 2015, there has been a dramatic increase in smartphone usage by our pupil body. There has been growing concern from some parents and staff that pupils are spending too much time on mobile devices on social media, playing games, watching Youtube or using the internet. When used properly, digital technology can be powerful and has many benefits but studies have shown that too much use of mobile devices can have a negative effect on young people's physiological, social and emotional well-being as well as taking time away from academic study.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to give pupils time away from their phones each day so that they can use their time more effectively on academic work whilst also benefiting from more social interaction with their peers.

### **Rules and regulations**

All pupils should have no access to mobile phones during three periods of every school day: during academic lessons, prep times and overnight. Upper 6<sup>th</sup> will be allowed phones overnight as a privilege. Exceptions are made to enable pupils to stay in contact with their families and consideration is also made where time zones are a factor.

In general, a 'no blue light rule' after 2145 is desirable, particularly for junior pupils. Phones are also not permitted in Hall, Chapel or in and around the main school at any time. In effect, phones should be in Boarding Houses for the vast majority of the school week.

Pupils should leave their mobile phones in their lockable drawers before they come for morning roll call every school day and they are to remain there until after the final lesson of the day. In addition, for the Second and Third Form pupils, their devices will be kept securely by the Housemaster or Housemistress until 1700 (Monday to Friday); after Games on Saturdays and after Chapel on Sundays. Prefects, overseen by HMs, will collect phones during prep time and before bedtime.

Day pupils are encouraged to leave their phones at home but if they choose to bring them to school they must ensure that they are stored safely and not visible during the school day.

Pupils will be permitted to take mobile phones to away fixtures. Pupils will be permitted to use mobile phones on Sunday from after morning Chapel until the start of prep.

The only exception to the above regulations is when a pupil is specifically told they can bring their phone to a particular lesson for a particular purpose by a teacher e.g. to take pictures for coursework in Technology. If a pupil is required to bring their phone to a particular lesson then it must be turned off and not visible in prior or subsequent lessons.

## Sanctions

On the first infringement of this policy, the mobile phone is to be confiscated and passed directly (not via pigeon hole) to the relevant Housemaster/Housemistress who will return it to the pupil 24 hours later and keep a record of the infringement.

On the second infringement the mobile phone is to be confiscated and passed directly to the relevant Housemaster/Housemistress who will return it 48 hours later and place the pupil in a House detention.

On the third infringement the mobile phone will be confiscated and the Hu will discuss this with HMs and parents.

For Day pupils, parents will be contacted from the first infringement. Pupils will have their phones returned before they go home on the day of the infringement and parents will be asked to keep their son/daughter's phone at home for the times stated above.

Version	Date	Reason	Author/Reviewer
0.1	04/09/2018	New Policy	G O'Neil
0.2	15/10/2021	Updated names & sanctions	S Sinclair
0.3	27/7/2022	Reviewed	S Sinclair
0.4	29/6/2023	Amended with changes to juniors' access	S Sinclair

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