

Mobile Phone Policy



WILMSLOW HIGH SCHOOL

Managed by:	Director of Student Services
Policy Approval:	Headteacher
Governor link committee:	Student Success and Wellbeing
Date of Review:	September 2023
Next Review:	September 2024

Aims

- To create a positive culture and climate that ensures that all students have the opportunity to learn, and teachers to teach, in a safe, respectful and cooperative environment free from the distraction and disruption caused by the misuse of mobile phone technology
- To support our students' wellbeing by encouraging them to reconsider their relationship with mobile phone technology and reducing dependency upon this
- To reduce incidents of anxiety, bullying and harassment caused by misuse of mobile phone technology during the school day
- To ensure a consistent approach to the management of mobile phones during the school day that is understood by staff and students, and applied fairly and equally to all students at all times
- To communicate our expectations clearly and routinely

Principles

- At Wilmslow High School we recognise the importance of mobile phone technology in our daily lives and the positive impact that this can have, but we have also become increasingly conscious of the negative impact that the overdependence and misuse of this technology can have on young people
- We believe that the learning, wellbeing and relationships of our students will benefit from the provision of stronger boundaries during the school day with mobile phone technology
- We recognised that self-regulation is difficult, and that the mobile phone culture is ubiquitous. Therefore, we want to support our young people by providing school rules and procedures that provide this space for them

Use of mobile phones by students in Years 7-11

- Students in Years 7-11 will not be able to use a mobile phone between 08.35a.m. and 15.15p.m. *unless with the express permission of a member of staff*
- Mobile phones (and any mobile phone paraphernalia) should not be seen or heard and will be confiscated if seen or heard
- With the permission of their form tutor, phones can be accessed again at 15.05p.m. for students to check firefly and homework

Use of mobile phones by adults including Sixth Form students

- To support students in Years 7-11, adult members of the school community, including Sixth Form students, will only be able to use mobile phones in public areas between 08.35a.m. and 03.05p.m.:
 - i. for purposely which are **expressly and obviously connected to work/ study**
- The above does not apply to staff or Sixth Form areas (such as the Staff Room and Sixth Form Area)
- Sixth Form students will not be able to use mobile phones in registration or lessons *without the express permission of a member of staff*
- Mobile phones should only be used in Sixth Form study areas (including the Sixth Form area) for purposely which are **expressly and obviously connected to work/ study**
- Air pods should not be worn on corridors by any adult member of the school community and should only be worn in public areas, or any study area, for purposely which are **expressly and obviously connected to work/ study**

Confiscation of mobile phones or paraphernalia

- Mobile phones that are seen or heard will be confiscated
- Mobile phone paraphernalia that is seen, such as wires or air pods, will be confiscated
- The escalation of sanctions can be found in Appendix 1
- Students who argue or refuse to cooperate will be sanctioned in line with serious or severe misconduct
- These rules will apply to Sixth Formers where they are not following the guidelines above

Smart watches

- Students in Years 7-11 are not permitted to wear smart watches

Communication with parents/ carers

- Parents/ carers can ensure that messages for the school day are passed to their child by phoning Reception
- Students will have access to their mobile phones from 03.05p.m. onwards and form tutors will encourage students to check these for any messages
- Students who need to contact a family member during the school day can communicate this through Student Services at break or lunchtime

Inappropriate use of mobile phones

- Staff have the power to search students' phones if we have reason to believe that the phone contains pornographic images, or if it is being/ has been used to commit an offence or cause personal injury. In all cases where a students' phone has been searched, parents/ carers will be contacted. Further details can be found at Appendix B
- Where it comes to light that a student has been using their mobile phone during the school day to send inappropriate messages, this will be sanctioned in line with serious or severe misconduct.
- The school does not tolerate the use of mobile phones during or outside the school day for bullying and harassing behaviours such as sexting, upskirting, threats of violence or assault, and abusive messages, and will contact the police where appropriate.

Loss, theft or damage

- Mobile phones that are brought into school should be stored safely and securely in students' bags
- The school does not accept responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or while students are travelling to and from school

Appendix 1

Sanctions

- Students who infringe the rules will have their phone confiscated and sent to student services immediately. Phones will be named and kept in student services.
- Students arguing with any member of staff over a mobile phone infringement will be dealt with very seriously. Members of staff have been asked to implement the policy consistently and therefore there should be no cause for argument.

	What will happen	Behaviour Point	Text message or contact with Parent Carer
1st offence	Mobile Phone Confiscated Returned to student at end of day from High Options at 3.30pm	B1 – Mobile phone confiscated	No Contact
2nd offence	Mobile Phone confiscated and returned to student at end of day from High Options at 3.30pm	B2 – Mobile phone confiscated	Text Message
3rd offence	Mobile Phone confiscated and parent informed that next incident will result in parents requiring collection. Returned to student by the House team.	B3 – Repeated mobile phone offence	House team to contact parent/ carer
5th offence	Mobile Phone confiscated and parent collects phone at agreed time	B4 – Persistent mobile phone offence	House team to contact Parent/ carer
Further Repeats	Sanctions in line with B4 and above of the Wilmslow Way	B4 – Persistent mobile phone offence	Serious sanctions

Appendix 2

Examples of Unacceptable uses

- Checking firefly – all students are issued a timetable
- Checking the time – use a watch or school clock
- Its lunchtime and students wanting to want to watch a video/ play a game
- Using mobile phones in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other pupils.
- Taking photos or recordings (either video or audio) of school staff or other pupils without their consent.
- Years 7-11 Listening to music through headphones. Music may be played by the class teacher to improve ambience for learning but will be done through the main speakers.