

S30 MOBILE PHONE/MP3 PLAYER POLICY

Last Reviewed:

May 2017

Next Review:

May 2019

Responsible:

The Principal

Background

For all students in Years 7-11

Cyber-bullying is an increasing concern in modern society which schools need to prevent wherever they are able to. Additionally schools are increasingly finding mobile phones and MP3 players to be a significant distraction from learning.

Mobile phones and MP3 players provide opportunities for cyber-bullying and have no educational value at schools which cannot be achieved through other technologies which students are expected to bring as part of their normal equipment, or which are provided by the teacher if not on the equipment list.

Schools have found that:

- cyber-bullying has become a national problem which schools want to prevent as far as they able to
- lessons are often disrupted by phone/text messages and personal music
- punctuality to lessons is reduced due to the use of phones/MP3 players between lessons
- the use of web-based communication has become obsessive and does not form part of the curriculum
- the public examination boards regard mobile phones as unacceptable and the presence of a mobile phone in an exam room can lead to the disqualification of the student

As an academy we want to promote positive, face to face, social interaction between our students and we feel that the use of mobile phones and MP3 players often prevents this from happening.

For these reasons it is not permitted for students to bring mobile phones or MP3 players to the academy and should parents require them to have a phone for the journey to and from the academy, the phone must be kept switched off and out of sight at all times during the academy day. This includes break and lunchtimes.

The Bushey Academy will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones or MP3 players.

Mobile phones and MP3 players will be confiscated if they are seen on the academy site. The device will be sent to Student Services, placed in a named ziplock bag and secured. It will be returned to the student at the end of school on a Friday. Should a parent/guardian wish to collect the device at an alternative time they will need to contact the student receptionist to book an appointment to come to the academy during our normal working hours.

Any parent/carer who wishes to contact their son/daughter urgently during the academy day should ring the Student Receptionist and the message will be passed on to the student at an appropriate time.

Should a student need to make an urgent phone call to a parent/carer during the academy day then they may go to Student Services during break or lunchtime where a phone will be made available to them.