



St Bede's
Roman Catholic High School

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale

Many parents want their children to have a mobile phone with them for their safety when travelling to and from school. However, schools are places of learning and unrestricted use of mobile phones will compromise this and lead to behaviour issues. Some of the problems that mobile phones cause in school include:

- Lessons are interrupted by phone/text messages.
- On occasions students have texted their parents to ask them to collect them because they are ill without speaking to any staff in school. Sometimes, students have received upsetting news (for example, the death of a family member) through a text leaving them distressed and without support from school.
- In terms of safeguarding/ invasion of privacy, it is possible, that photographs and video clips can be taken of other students or staff and quickly loaded onto social networking sites via a student's 'smart phone'.
- Cyber-bullying through the use of a mobile phone

Policy

1. If parents feel it is important that their child has a phone with them, they may do so on condition that the phone is switched off and kept out of sight, in either the student's pocket or bag, at all times when the student is on school premises.
2. When a student is seen with a mobile phone on school premises they will have it confiscated from them. The school will make every attempt to inform parent/carer on the day of confiscation by 4pm. The phone will be confiscated for a period of one week or until a parent makes an arrangement for it to be returned. The phone must be collected **within the hours of 8am to 4pm** unless other arrangements have been made. If a student's phone cannot be seen but nevertheless is heard to ring or emit a text message alert sound whilst on school premises a member of staff will require the student to hand over the phone for confiscation, as above. They will have bedes achievement points deducted in all circumstances.
3. If a student is seen *using* a mobile phone, then in addition to having the phone confiscated they will be disciplined as appropriate. Depending on the nature of the use, this may range from deduction of "bedes" points to withdrawal from lessons. In serious cases, such as using the phone to film in circumstances where it amounts to sexual misconduct or harassment of staff or pupils, the sanction may extend to exclusion from school and/or the involvement of the police.
4. The only exception to the prohibition of use of a mobile phone on school premises would be if a member of staff gives a student express permission to use his or her phone at a particular time and location, for example to allow a recording during a foreign language lesson for revision purposes.
5. The school will take no responsibility for any damage to, or loss of, a mobile phone. A student can also hand their phone into reception for safekeeping at the start of the day.
6. Mobile phones (including Smart Watches and other similar devices) are not permitted in any examination.
7. If there is a suspected safeguarding concern relating to the use of a mobile phone, it will be confiscated and if appropriate shared with relevant external agencies i.e. Police.