



Baines School

Nil Sine Labore

The Governors of Baines School

Mobile Phone Policy

Date approved: September 2018

Date of review: September 2021

Context

There has been significant coverage in the news in recent months over the use of mobile phones in schools and how this affects the learning within school and how they can lead to bullying and inappropriate web usage. Despite being on silent, pupils receive messages from friends during lessons distracting from learning and focus.

Many schools deeply concerned about the effect mobile phones are having on children's ability to socialise with each other. These concerns also centre around the potential for inappropriate use in school.

There has also been published information about the effect of mobile phones and the real impact on students' achievements. The London School of Economics conducted a comparative study on schools that had banned smartphones from their premises or required them to hand them in at the beginning of the school day versus schools that hadn't. On average, the chances of getting five quality GCSE grades at schools where a ban was in place increased by an average of 2%. This achievement was even more marked amongst pupils at the lower end of achievement as on these pupils went up by 4%.

The web links below give more information regarding use of mobile phones in schools and the effects they are having.

www.theguardian.com/education/2017/dec/15/schools-approach-to-mobile-phones-varies-widely-in-uk

www.tes.com/news/should-uk-follow-frances-lead-and-ban-all-mobile-phones-all-schools

Many schools in the local area have already banned the use of mobile phones and this document is meant to clarify the school's position regarding the use of mobile phones from September 2018 onwards.

Aim

- To clarify the school's position on use of mobile phones.
- To ensure that pupils, staff are fully safeguarded against incidents involving the use of mobile phones.
- To ensure that all staff fully understand the position of the school in order to consistently implement it.
- To ensure that parents are fully aware of the change and the reasons for the changes.

Guidelines

- Mobiles must be switched off during school hours until the school site has been exited. This includes break time and lunchtime. Headphones and portable speakers should not be seen.
- All phones seen by any member of staff during the school day will be confiscated whether this is being used or not. Phones must not be seen or heard during the school day.
- Any phones that are confiscated will be handed in to the Pastoral Office for safe keeping where a record of misuse will be kept. The pupil will be sanctioned for using the phone during the school day.
- Repeat breaches of the school's position will result in more serious sanctions being given. Parents will have to collect the phone from school for repeat incidences and therefore it may not be possible to return the phone on the day it is taken.
- At the end of the day once the pupil has exited the school building, the phone may be used.
- During extra-curricular events / fixtures where transport may need to be arranged, mobile phones can be used to contact parents/carers for reasons relating to transport regarding the activity.
- Under the clear direction of the classroom teacher, mobile phones may be used in a lesson as a learning resource to complete a planned activity e.g. GCSE Pod, Class Charts. This will be clearly displayed in the room for pupils using the red/green mobile phone sign. All mobile phones will be switched off after use for the planned activity.