



Learning & Achieving Together

The Coleshill School – An 11-19 Business & Enterprise Academy

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Mobile Device (Learning devices) policy

June 2021

Mobile Device (learning devices) include but are not exclusive to phones, ear pods, tablets, iWatches, games consoles such as Nintendo DS, MP3s or iPods.

Introduction and aims

At The Coleshill School the welfare and well-being of our students is paramount. A report from the Office for National Statistics reported that 27% of young people who regularly access social media, experience mental health issues in comparison with 12% of young people who rarely use social media. The aim of the Mobile Devices Policy is to allow the use of technology (where appropriate) as a learning device that benefits their education, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust guidance on acceptable use whilst on school site.

This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse, recognising the increased dependence that some of our young people are becoming on mobile phones and concerns about the mental and psychological impact these devices are having alongside the potential educational benefits identified above.

Code of Conduct

All student mobile phones must remain switched off and in a bag for the duration of the school day. Sixth Form students ONLY will however be allowed to use mobile phones for study purposes during their Independent Study Periods, before school, at break, at lunch and after school in the Sixth Form Centre and E5 study room. (Please note that Sixth Form students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones in the canteen or around the school site).

Students will not be allowed to keep a mobile on their person for example in a blazer or trouser pocket; this is to avoid the temptation for students to leave a mobile phone switched on and access it whilst in lessons or on the school site.

This also includes unstructured time during the school day including before school whilst present on the school site, lesson changeovers, break time, lunchtime and after school detentions.

If a student is seen using a mobile phone on the school site or if a mobile phone is not switched off during the school day:

- A member of staff will confiscate the mobile phone and a detention will be issued in line with the school's Praise and Behaviour Policy.
- Any confiscated mobile phones will be logged and taken to the school safe. If it's the first occasion where it has been confiscated the students will be able to collect it at the end of the day.
- If it is the second occasion or more, then the student will not be able to collect it, but the parent or carer must come to school and collect between the hours of 9am-2.30pm and 3.30-4pm (please do

not come between 2.30pm and 3.30pm) due to students leaving school and our school buses arriving.

- If a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone when asked to do so, then the student will be placed into internal isolation (or if required on rare occasions externally excluded), in line with the school Praise and Behaviour Policy.

As a learning device in lesson time:

There may be occasions however, where a member of staff gives a student or group of student's specific permission to use it as a learning device for example in PE to watch a sporting technique. In these situations only and as long as the devices are used for the correct reasons as outlined by the member of staff, then the students would obviously not be sanctioned and nor would the devices be confiscated. Once the task involving mobile phones is completed, the students would be required to switch the devices off and place them back in bags.

If a parent/carer needs to contact their child or a child needs to contact a parent or carer in an emergency:

If a student needs to contact home in an emergency, students can contact Student Support and request that Student Support staff make a phone call on their behalf. Equally, if a parent/carer urgently needs to contact a student during the school day, then parents and carers can telephone Reception and a note can be passed to the student. **We kindly request that parents do not contact students directly on mobile devices during the school day.**

Responsibility for valuables

You may choose as a parent/carer to not send your child into school with a mobile phone. However, if you choose to send a child into school with a mobile phone, parents/carers must be aware that any mobile phone is brought onto the school site at the owner's own risk. The school will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage to any device. We strongly advise parents/carers not to purchase very expensive mobile phone models in case of loss or damage.

Ear pods, Earphones and speakers

Ear pods, earphones and (Bluetooth) speakers are also not allowed to be used at school, unless a member of staff has allowed their use as a learning device (for example in music or if a student needs to listen to a video clip) I. If these items are used on the school site, then staff reserve the right to confiscate these items and again please see the above guidance on how they will be returned by to the student or parent/carer depending on the frequency of confiscation. A sanction may also be issued depending on the circumstances.

Smart watches

Smart watches will still be permissible for students to wear on the school site as they have many different functions. However, as mobile phones will be required to be switched off and in bags during the school day, such wearable devices will not be allowed to be connected to mobiles and thus the internet. If a student is found to be using wearable technology to connect to a phone, then the wearable device, along with the phone, may be confiscated and a sanction issued in line with the school Praise and Behaviour Policy.