



SMITHILLS SCHOOL

POLICY:

MOBILE PHONES - PUPILS

Smithills School operates a total ban on the use of mobile phones, MP3 players or other similar electrical devices on site during the school day. Pupils are strongly advised not to bring them in to school but realises that most pupils will have a mobile phone with them.

If a mobile phone or other device including head/earphones is seen or heard by a member of staff, that member of staff will ask the pupil for the mobile phone. The phone will then be immediately taken to Student Services. For any reason the pupils refuses to hand over the mobile phone, the member of staff should contact the school office and a person from the SLT will summoned to the appropriate location.

The phone will then confiscated, in line with the EIA 2006, and a responsible adult/member of the family, with appropriate identification, is required to attend school to retrieve the item between 9.00am and 4.00 pm on Monday to Friday. If this is not possible, the pupil can collect the phone themselves after a period of seven days has passed.

Mobile phones and similar items are expressly forbidden in all school and public exams and assessments. Possession and or use of such an item may well result in the cancellation of all marks in any or all exams or assessments, in line with JCQ regulations.

It is unacceptable for a student to use a phone or any similar item to humiliate, threaten or bully any member of the school community including staff. This includes using a phone to send abusive texts, cyberbullying, or using phone cameras to record incidents of poor behaviour such as 'happy slapping'.

Written By: Su Barker, Deputy Headteacher

Signed:  **Headteacher**

Date: September 2015

Approved on behalf of Governing Body:



Date: September 2015

For Review: May 2017



Mobile Phones and Cyberbullying

Bullying is not new and it is always treated seriously at Smithills School. Please refer to the school's separate Anti-Bullying Policy.

As mobile phone and internet use have become increasingly common, so has the misuse of this technology to bully. Staff should be aware of some features of cyberbullying that are different from other forms of bullying:

- It can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been deemed as safe or personal.
- The audience can be very large and reached rapidly. The worry of content resurfacing can make it difficult for victims to move on.
- People who cyberbully may attempt to be anonymous and may never be in the same physical space as their victim – this can be extremely distressing for those being bullied.
- The profile of the bully and the victim can be very different to expected norms – it can take place between peers and across generations; teachers have also been targets. Bystanders can also become accessories, eg. by passing on a humiliating image.
- Some instances can be unintentional, either through 'not thinking' or a lack of awareness of the consequences e.g. texting something negative online about another pupil that they don't expect to be forwarded or viewed outside their immediate group.

On the positive side – many cyber bullying incidents can act as evidence. The EIA 2006 provides a defence for staff confiscating items such as mobile phones in relation to cyberbullying. Some cyberbullying activities can be deemed criminal offences under a range of different laws including the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and the Public Order Act 1986. Students and their parents are made aware of their responsibilities in their use of ICT and what the sanctions are for misuse. They are also made aware that the school can provide them with support if cyberbullying takes place out of school. As with all incidents of bullying, staff will ensure that cyberbullying incidents are properly recorded on SIMS and fully investigated thereafter.

Sanctions

Smithills members of staff have a statutory power to impose sanctions that are reasonable and proportionate to the situation (EIA 2006). The school does not apply blanket policies for sanctions such as providing a fixed penalty for a particular offence. Account is taken of a student's age, SEN, disability and any religious requirements affecting the student that could possibly explain the behaviour and therefore affect the sanction (if any) imposed.

Staff should be aware of the findings of a 2008 Ofsted survey which recognised that bad behaviour can result from an inability of the child to access their learning. Staff and students should therefore understand that there are circumstances in which some students may be treated differently from others, and why this is.



Management of Pupils

Smithills school has produced a scale of sanctions so staff are clear about which members of staff are authorised to impose which levels of sanction. The purpose of all sanctions applied is to:

- impress on the student that what he has done is unacceptable
- deter the student from repeating the behaviour
- signal to other students that the behaviour is unacceptable and deter them from doing it. The school strongly endorses the use of restorative approaches to address poor behaviour. The underlying principle is that students are held to account for their actions and are encouraged to put right the harm caused. Most routine discipline problems should be dealt with by the teachers themselves.