



Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy (Students)

Policy Ref No. PMP 01

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

*"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.
Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.
We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."*

Christ is the foundation of everything we do and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions we aim to prepare young people for a life working with others in communities which maybe diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community.

The education of all

We have the duty of care for all to ensure that we provide for those who are socially, academically, physically, emotionally or financially disadvantaged.

Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

Any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and required to support them;

Children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them;

All of our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject in any way to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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1. Purpose

1.1. The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that academy administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones do not have a detrimental impact on learning.

1.2. We firmly believe that a policy against the use of mobile phones and smart technology is in the interests of our Academy community to eliminate the disruption that mobile phones can cause. Therefore staff, parents and students need to be clear that, for pupils in Year 11 or below, mobile phones should not be used, seen or heard at any point, anywhere on the school site. Breaches of this rule, without express permission in exceptional circumstances, will be sanctioned in line with this policy

1.3. St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones.

1.4. Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile phones on to the Academy premises.

1.5. The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities both on the Academy site and off-site.

2. Rationale

2.1. As of January 2026, UK guidance dictates that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. Phones should not be used or accessed during the school day, including lessons, breaks, and lunchtimes.

2.1. We firmly believe that a policy against the use of mobile phones and smart technology is in the interests of our Academy community to eliminate the disruption that mobile phones can cause. Therefore staff, parents and students need to be clear that, for pupils in Year 11 or below, mobile phones should not be used, seen or heard at any point, anywhere on the school site. Breaches of this rule, without express permission in exceptional circumstances, will be sanctioned in line with this policy

2.2. Personal safety and security: Our School accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public

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transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently when travelling between home and school.

Please note that the policy is ratified by the Local governing Body, supported by the Trust legal team and is linked to the Department for Education Behaviour in School document September 2022.

3. Responsibility

3.1. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

3.2. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is incumbent upon parents to understand the capabilities of the phone and the potential use/ misuse of those capabilities.

3.3. Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school. It is assumed household insurance will provide the required cover in the event of loss or damage. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs incurred due to its use.

3.4. Parents/carers are responsible for the supervision of their child's mobile phone use. We would recommend that parents are proactive in safeguarding their child by scrutinising the sites accessed to ensure that these are age appropriate, monitoring their online communication and limiting screen time.

3.5. Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency they must contact the school first so we are aware of any potential issue and can make the necessary arrangements. In cases of emergency, the school reception remains the only appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any relevant way. The telephone number is 01522 871400.

4. Acceptable Uses

4.1 Phones should be switched off as students enter the Academy gates. They should then be stored within a zipped pocket or within their bags. Phones should not be seen at all. These should not be switched on again until they leave school at the end of the day

4.2. Should a student require the use of mobile phone technology to manage medical conditions e.g. Type 1 diabetes, Bluetooth hearing aids etc, this will be allowed. These arrangements are agreed with individuals as appropriate in consultation with parents and the Head of Year and this will be communicated to staff.

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4.3. Key Stage 5 students may use their mobile phones to aid teaching and learning in designated sixth form areas. They are not permitted to use these in spaces shared with other year groups e.g. the library, canteen, corridors and social spaces.

4.4. We appreciate that some students may have circumstances when they need to communicate with parents for safeguarding purposes. In these exceptional circumstances the student will be supported by the Pastoral team to make the call in an office space.

5. Unacceptable Conduct

5.1. Mobile phones should not be visible or audible, whether intentional or unintentional.

5.2. Use of smart watches, smart wear e.g. glasses and Bluetooth headphones are prohibited on the Academy site.

5.3. Taking photographs and video footage of staff and/or students on the Academy site is prohibited. This will result in serious sanction which could include suspension.

5.4. If a device is seen the student will be asked to hand it to a member of staff. If the student refuses to comply with this reasonable request this will result in a referral to the senior team for a further sanction to be issued which could include supported study.

5.5. If a student is placed in Supported Study, for any reason, they will be asked to hand their phones to a member of staff. If the student refuses to comply with this reasonable request this will result in a referral to the senior team for a further sanction to be issued which could include suspension for persistent refusal.

5.6. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such the Academy may respond to incidents by reporting them to the Police or advising parents/ carers to report the offence if this was committed off site.

5.7. Mobile phones and smart technology are banned from all examinations even if they are switched off in a pocket. Bringing such an item into the examination is 'serious malpractice' It is the Academy's duty to report any malpractice to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). Penalties are severe and can include disqualification from the subject, or even disqualification from the whole examination series.

6. Theft or damage

6.1. Students who bring a mobile phone to school should ensure it is kept out of sight in their bag or a zipped pocket this will reduce the risk of theft or loss of the device during school hours.

6.2. Mobile phones that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to the admin office or reception.

6.3. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

6.4. The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.

6.5. It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other students, or if stolen).

7. Sanctions

7.1. Students who infringe the rules set out in this document will face having their phones confiscated by teachers. The student must give it to a teacher immediately when instructed to. The confiscated phone will be handed in to reception as soon as possible. This will be kept in a secure place within the school office. The student will be able to collect the mobile phone at the end of the school day.

7.2. On the first infringement the student will receive a lunchtime detention, and a record will be made of the incident. Parents will be notified.

7.3. Further infringement will result in the confiscation of the mobile phone and the student will be placed in supported study for this persistent behaviour.

7.4. Persistent infringement will result in a ban being imposed. Parents will be notified that their child will be expected to hand their mobile phone in to reception as soon as they arrive at school. Failure to follow this expectation will result in further sanction which could include suspension for persistent defiance.

7.5. If a student refuses to hand over their device when asked they will be placed in supported study. Continued refusal to hand it over would be escalated to the leadership team and could result in suspension.

This Policy is linked with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy