



MOBILE PHONE POLICY PUPILS

JANUARY 2016

Policy statement

Mobiles phones have recently become a common possession, and are increasingly complex and sophisticated. Many people view them as an essential of modern life.

There are however many issues that relate to mobile phone use, or indeed possession, in school.

- Disturbance of lessons and loss of concentration in class.
- Worry at responsibility for an expensive item.
- Potential for theft.
- Potential bullying situations.
- Unwanted and uncontrolled photographs and video footage.
- Now that mobile phones can connect to the internet, all the hazards involving online issues such as bullying, grooming and personal security.
- Microwave radiation.
- Adults talking on the phone and not giving their full attention to the children in their care.
- Personal conversations being overheard.

We also accept that :

- Parents / carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. However we are also aware that mobile phone theft is becoming increasingly common.
- There is increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or walking 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 after or before school.

Procedure

- Except in emergency situations, no mobile phones are to be used by children on the school premises.
- Children must keep their phones turned off, in their bags and out of sight.
- Any phone found during school time will be confiscated, and held in the office available for collection at the end of the school day. If this happens more than once a meeting will be set up with parents.
- Phones will be returned to the pupils and will not be held overnight.

At the Class Teachers discretion and in agreement with the DSO, Class 8 pupils may be allowed to take still and video images using their phones while on their European trip. *Note: image content would still need to follow guidelines set out in the Media Policy*

Still photographs or video must only be taken with a school camera. All images and the processing of images must follow the school requirements detailed in the schools media policy.

Students, their parents or carers must read and understand this policy

York Steiner School takes no responsibility for loss or damage to any pupils mobile phone or electronic device.

Approval & Review

This policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 3rd March 2016

Policy review date: February 2017