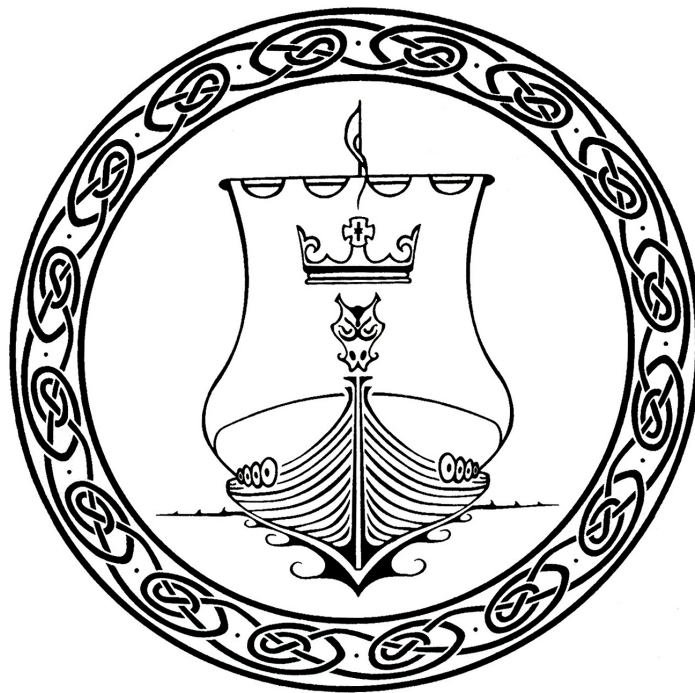




Queen Elizabeth II High School

Mobile Phone Policy



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Rationale

Smart phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology however presents a number of issues for schools. These include misuse of social media and messaging, online bullying and lack of concentration in lessons. There is increasing research on the negative social impact of mobile phone use.

The most recent educational research suggests that students who attend schools with mobile phone restrictions on average gain 6.4% better grades in their GCSE exams. The school governors (2019) have indicated that they would support a phone restriction. The most recent staff survey (2019) suggested that staff were significantly in favour of a phone restriction. The most recent parent consultation also had a majority in favour of a restriction of some sort.

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. Equally, it is not our desire to prevent the appropriate use of phones. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

Policy

- 1. Phones and other digital equipment (including connected devices) must not be used for any purpose within school unless directed by a member of staff.**
- 2. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view (this includes not being in shirt pockets). They should not be visible.**
- 3. They can be used inside or outside the school building before 8.55am after 3.45pm.**
- 4. It is accepted that students are allowed to take photographs of materials to aid their learning e.g. homework. This must be with the permission of the teacher.**
- 5. If a pupil breaches these rules the phone or device will be confiscated and will be placed in the school safe until the end of the day. If this occurs more than once in a term parents/guardians will be asked to collect the phone.**
- 6. Pupils who refuse to hand over their phones will be in serious breach of the behaviour policy and will be internally isolated until they comply with school rules.**
- 7. The Sixth Form are permitted to use phones in the Common Room.**
- 8. Phones must not be taken into examinations.**

Emergencies

If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they will be allowed to use a school phone. If parents need to contact children **urgently** they should phone the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.



Responsibility for mobile phones:

The school accepts no responsibility **whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones or other digital equipment in the possession of pupils or confiscated by staff, and will not undertake any related investigation. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile phones and other digital equipment are properly insured.