



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## Mobile Phones and other Valuable Personal Property

**Date Adopted:**

**Review Date:**

## **Mobile Phones and other Valuable Personal Property**

Mobile phones and MP3 players now seem to be an almost essential item for every teenager. They are now so common that they have become a significant issue for security and appropriate use. It is, therefore, important to clarify the school's position with regard to them.

To start with it may be useful to reprint below the item in the information pack to all parents with regard to personal property.

'Neither the school nor the LEA carry insurance for personal property and no liability can be accepted except that due to negligence by a member of staff. Large amounts of money or valuable possessions should not be brought to school and certainly not left unattended, even in a locker. If there are particular circumstances making it necessary to bring such items to school they should be taken to the school office for safe keeping with an explanatory note.'

Mobile phones and many MP3 players certainly come under the heading of valuable possessions and our strong recommendation is that they are not brought to school. We certainly cannot accept any responsibility for their security.

We accept that mobile phones have a useful safety function, especially for those with long journeys home. It is our position that they may be brought into school but not displayed or used unnecessarily and certainly not in lesson time. We can see no reason how it could be necessary to bring an MP3 player to school. Apart from the security aspect, an important part of school life is interacting with your peers, not isolating yourself by plugging into a machine. If a student wants a player for a long bus journey the player should not be used or visible at all during the school day.

To summarise:

1. We again re-emphasise that **valuables should not be brought to school**. The school can accept no responsibility for them.
2. A mobile phone may be brought to school at the student's risk. It must be kept **out of sight and turned off** during the school day. The phone may be turned on during morning break and the lunch break unless the student is participating in an extra lesson or activity.
3. If it is really vital for a student to make or receive an **emergency phone call**, this can be done **via the school office**. Please refrain from phoning or texting your child directly during lesson time, as this can be unsettling.
4. MP3 players (or similar) should not be seen in school at any time.
5. If these rules are broken the offending item will be confiscated. The sanction for refusing to co-operate with this will be an internal inclusion. The item will be returned at the end of the day for a first offence and the **end of the week or directly to a parent for subsequent offences**.