

St. Benedict's Catholic School

Mobile phone policy

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1. Introduction

Note: The term 'mobile phone' in this policy includes smartwatches, ear buds/pods, and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones. No liability can be taken for any device bought into school.

The use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones by pupils in school and on school site is strictly forbidden.

We understand that pupils may carry a mobile phone to contact parents/guardians before or after school. However, our school day is a mobile phone-free environment, we prohibit students use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

There may be exceptional circumstances where St Benedict's Catholic School will consider adaptations to the Mobile Phone policy for specific pupils, parents/carers are responsible for communicating with St Benedict's Catholic School for adaptations to be considered.

We aim to educate pupils in the responsible use of technology, including understanding the risks associated with smart technology usage, which can include a loss of focus in lessons, classroom disruption and an increase in bullying.

If a student chooses to bring a mobile phone to school, they must not be used whilst on school site, the device must be switched off and always kept out of sight during the school day, including break and lunchtimes. Mobile Phones / smart devices must not be seen or heard, this includes the wearing of smart watches and storing devices in waistbands and pockets.

2. Rules and responsible use

- No smart digital device is to be seen or heard during the school day, this includes in student's pockets.
- Urgent telephone contact with and from parents/carers must be via the school Reception, rather than trying to contact a student directly on their mobile phone.
- In the case of exceptional circumstances when a mobile phone may need to be used students must speak to senior staff and get permission in advance.
- We reserve the right to check a mobile phone if it is suspected that the device has been used whilst on school site or there may be inappropriate material, unauthorised photographs or recordings on it.
- Where students need to contact parents/carers during the school day or extra-curricular activities, provision will be made.

3. Sanctions

What Happens If I Don't?

- Any mobile phone / smart device seen or heard during the school day or there is evidence the device has been used during the school day; the device will be confiscated by a member of staff and stored securely in the Main Office. On the first offence, a 40minute lunchtime detention will be given and **parents are to collect the device from the main office.**
- A second confiscation, a 60minute after-school detention and **parents are to collect the device from the main office.**
- Should a subsequent infringement occur, the student will be asked to hand their phone in to reception at the start of every school day or daily bag checks as the young person will be expected to be mobile phone-free.

4. Sixth form

Year 12 and 13 students **may use** their mobile phones/smart devices in the Sixth Form common room and work room; if this is not in a manner that is disruptive to others or to the normal routine of the school.

Year 12 and 13 may use suitable devices for educational purposes whilst in lesson.

5. Use of mobile phones on school trips

These guidelines will apply to the use of mobile phones / smart devices during school trips, travelling to and from school trips, extra-curricular activities or other off-site supervised activities unless specific arrangements are given to parents and carers as part of the trip planning.

6. Review



St Benedict's
Catholic School

The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk

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Reviewed by: Ms E Coogan (Assistant Headteacher)

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