

Ysgol Hendrefelin and Residence Unit



Mobile phones use in school policy

Policy Review		Signature	
Date approved by Governors	06/12/2022	<i>R M Blank</i> (Chair of Governors)	<i>L W Lewis</i> (Headteacher)
Date Reviewed	16/07/2024	<i>R M Blank</i> (Chair of Governors)	<i>L W Lewis</i> (Headteacher)
Date Reviewed			

Mobile Phone Use in School

Advice on Safe Use of Mobile Phones

Using your mobile can be great fun but you need to be careful and keep safe.

- Don't give out your number or friends' numbers to people you don't know, especially in Instant Messenger or Chat Rooms.
- Keep your security code or PIN number private.
- If you get texts, which upset you, don't reply but keep a record and tell an adult. In serious cases you can report it to the police.
- If you receive a rude or embarrassing image or text about someone don't forward it to others.
- Distributing nasty images of other children is wrong and could be illegal. If you receive something like this tell an adult immediately.
- Ask permission before taking a picture of your friends and think before sending it on. Once sent you have lost control of it and it could become public before you know it.

See Kidsmart at www.kidsmart.org.uk for more information on staying safe, leaflets and interactive games.

Benefits

- Pupils can use phones in cases of emergency.
- Pupils may feel more confident knowing they can make contact with someone if in difficulties.
- Pupils may use their mobile phones to play music or to make contact using headphones on school transport to and from home.

The Potential Disadvantages

- Mobiles are valuable and can be lost or stolen.
- Pupils can be bullied by text messaging, internet or silent phone calls.
- Mobiles can be used to communicate inappropriate material.
- Unsuitable people are known to use mobile phones and text messages to make inappropriate contact with young people.

School Policy

- Pupils are not permitted to take photos on their mobile phones during school hours.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, pupils should seek staff permission to use their phone.

- Incidents of bullying at home using mobile phones should be dealt with by reporting the incidents to the police and notifying school
- Pupils who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff and parents will be contacted and the pupils phone returned to them when appropriate.
- If a member of staff has any suspicion, that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, pupils will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.
- Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing phones into school.
- Pupils remain responsible for their property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.
- Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in normal disciplinary action to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the pupil concerned.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to pupils having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.

Thank you for your co-operation

Mr. Lyndon Lewis
Head Teacher