



Mobile Phones Acceptable Use Policy

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North Chadderton School accepts no responsibility for either loss or damage to any Mobile phone whilst students are on the school site, and it is recommended that, if brought to school, it is clearly labelled, as with all possessions brought to school.

1. Rationale

1.1. Personal safety and security

North Chadderton School accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances 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.

1.2. The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school leaders, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at school. This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide, such as increased safety, can continue to be enjoyed by our students.

1.3. North Chadderton School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.

1.4. Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before students are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.

1.5. The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions and extra-curricular activities.

2. Responsibilities

2.1. It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

2.2. The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers.

2.3. Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to school.

2.4. Permission to have a mobile phone at school while under the school's supervision is contingent upon a parent/guardian accepting responsibility for this.

3. Implementation

3.1. Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight (in a bag or pocket) at all times during the school day and while on the school premises. This includes breaks and lunchtimes.

Exceptions will be permitted only in lessons where the member of staff specifically wishes to use mobile technology for an educational purpose. Sixth form students are only permitted to use mobile phones in the 6th form central area and the 6th form common room.

3.2 Parents/carers should not contact their child during the school day by way of the students' mobile phones. In cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

3.3 Students who become ill during the day must not use their mobile phones to contact parents/carers, but should use the established procedure of reporting to the appropriate Student Progress Co-ordinator.

3.4 Mobile phones should not under any circumstance be taken into examination rooms, as this is a breach of examination rules, and could lead to disqualification.

3.5 Electronic devices used **solely** for playing music will be permitted outside the school buildings at break/ lunchtimes. Devices which act also as mobile phones will not be permitted, as outlined above. Any devices for playing music are the responsibility of the student and North Chadderton School takes no responsibility for the loss of, or damage to any such device.

3.6 If a student ignores this policy, and uses a mobile phone on the school premises without permission, they will be required to hand over the phone, including its SIM card, to the member of staff. The phone will be handed to Mrs D. Whittle, the Headteacher's P.A. who will put it in an envelope with the student's name printed on and will lock it away. Students will have to report to Ms Clark, the Headteacher, at the end of the School day to retrieve their mobile phone at a time of Ms Clark's convenience.

3.7 If a member of staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be required 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 must recover the phone from the Police in such circumstances.

3.8 Any failure to comply with the above guidelines will result in disciplinary action, in line with our behaviour policy. Refusal to comply with a request from a member of staff is a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be treated accordingly. If a student does not hand over his/her mobile phone when asked to do so by a member of staff, this will result in the confiscation of the phone until the end of the school week, at which point the phone must be collected by a parent. Bullying is treated seriously by the school and any bullying via calls, messages or pictures on a mobile phone will be dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy.

4. Monitoring

All members of staff will monitor the use of mobile phones in accordance with this policy.

5. General advice to Parents on safety issues concerning mobile phones

5.1 Students should protect their phone numbers by only giving them to friends and keeping a note of who they have given them to. This can help protect the student's number from falling into the wrong hands and guard against the receipt of insulting, threatening or unpleasant voice, text and picture messages. Security codes or PIN numbers should be kept private.

5.2 Students should not allow other students to use their phone, unless in the case of an emergency.

5.3 If unpleasant texts or pictures are received, students should always tell an adult immediately. Rude or embarrassing images or texts should **never** be forwarded to others, and any student who shares/distributes an explicit or indecent image could end up with a criminal record.

5.4 Students should always ask permission before taking pictures of their friends and should think carefully before sending it on. Once sent, control has been lost and it could become public very quickly.

5.5 Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students having mobile phones in terms of personal safety, there are also some associated risks such as the potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons. Parents/carers should monitor the use of mobile phones, in order to be aware of any inappropriate and unsafe use.

See Kidsmart at www.kidsmart.org.uk for more information on staying safe and the guidance in our anti-bullying and e-safety policies.

6. Evaluation

6.1 On a regular basis, we will review the situation to check that the policy is appropriate and workable.

In particular the school recognizes the importance of emerging technologies present in modern mobile phones e.g. camera and video recording, internet access, MP3 and MP4 playback, blogging etc. In the future teachers may wish to utilize these functions to aid teaching and learning on a regular basis.

6.2 The school will act in accordance with Government guidelines at all times. The school has the power to search for phones and other items banned by the school if they “reasonably suspect (the item) has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of any person” (see behaviour policy).

6.3 Any review of this policy will include consultation with parents, staff and students.