



Felpham Community College Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale

Felpham Community College believes that developing children's interpersonal and communication skills is fundamental to them becoming good citizens and future employees and will enhance their friendships.

It has become a feature of life in recent years that many young people spend a great deal of time looking at digital screens and using social media.

This policy sets out the school's framework for determining what is 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' use of mobile phones by students while they are at Felpham Community College.

(Please note: For the purposes of this policy, all references to 'mobile phones' should be taken to include: mobile phones, tablets, i-Pads and mp3 players. Smart watches are allowed in school but should not be used for communication purposes.)

Introduction

Mobiles phones have become a common possession and are increasingly complex and sophisticated. Many people view them as an essential of modern life. There are however many issues that relate to mobile phone use, or indeed possession, in school. In summary, the problems that mobile phones cause in school include:

1. Students spending excessive time looking at digital screens to the detriment of developing good interpersonal skills
2. Students disturbed by texts, or social media alerts, which distracts from their learning
3. Lesson disruption by phone/text messages
4. In terms of safeguarding, it is rare but possible that photographs and videos can be taken of other students or staff and quickly loaded onto social networking sites via a student's smart phone
5. Increasing the opportunity for cyber-bullying which in turn can divert teaching time to deal with these situations.
6. Worry at responsibility for an expensive item. (Please note: items are brought into school at their owner's risk and the school will not accept responsibility for any damage or loss.)
7. Potential for theft

Policy

1. If parent/carers feel it is important that their child has a mobile phone with them to and from school, they may do so on condition that the device is switched off (not placed on silent) and kept out of sight at all times when the student is on the school site
2. If a parent needs to contact their child for an emergency, or any other reason, they should telephone the school reception on (01243) 826511
3. If a student needs to contact home urgently during the school day they can do so through their Year Office
4. If a student is seen with a mobile phone on the school premises or walking around with one that is visible, they will have it confiscated. If a student's phone cannot be seen but nevertheless is heard to ring or emit a message alert it will be confiscated
5. When a mobile phone is confiscated the matter will be recorded by the Year Office. On the first occasion a student's phone is confiscated, they will be able to collect it at the end of the school day from the Year Office. On the second or subsequent occasion their phone is confiscated, parents will be required to collect the phone at the end of the school day, or at their earliest convenience thereafter, from the Year Leader or Year Manager
6. Parents will be notified by text or email if their child's mobile phone has been confiscated
7. If a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone when requested to do so they will be removed from lessons and work in the Isolation Room
8. The only exception to this policy is if a phone is used under the supervision of a member of staff for educational purposes in a controlled learning environment
9. Sixth Form students will be allowed access to their mobile phones only in the Sixth Form common room or the quad. Staff and all students will not be allowed to use their phones in corridors, the canteen or café, playgrounds, the school field or generally anywhere on site
10. School staff will only be allowed to use mobile phones in the staffroom or in offices