



MOBILE PHONE USE POLICY

MOBILE PHONE USE & PORTABLE TECHNOLOGY

Most students use their mobile phones responsibly and many parents consider them to be an important tool to aid their child's safety when travelling to and from Jesmond Park Academy and within the local community.

Additionally, mobile technologies can be a great way to enhance learning. It is rare that this would be the case in a school setting. Mobile technology would only be allowed to be used under the strict supervision of the class teacher.

As a general rule students are not allowed to use their mobile phones or other mobile technology such as a smart watch or tablet in lessons and while moving around the academy. We ask that all mobile technology is kept switched off and in a student's bag whilst they are in the building. Phones and other mobile technology must not be brought to external examinations under any circumstances.

For a minority of students, however, there are significant concerns over their safety, security and well-being either as victims or perpetrators of mobile technology misuse.

Students and their parents need to know:

- the age of criminal responsibility is 10yrs;
- it is a crime to:
 - harass or bully via a text; call or any social media platform
 - take, receive and keep or show indecent photos of children;
 - film others without permission; this is most prevalent in aggressive or violent situations
- taking a photograph without consent is an invasion of privacy and may be distressing to others;
- **students should not post photographs of others on any social media platform without first gaining their permission;**
- once photos are sent to a website, they can become impossible to track or delete;
- identifying clues in a photo could lead to risk of contact from strangers; and mobile and web-blogging can be dangerous if personal information is uploaded.

Location tracking services can mean that it is possible for a stranger to pinpoint the exact location of a child's mobile whilst in use – and therefore the child can be at risk.

To use mobile phones safely students need to:

- respect their own and others' privacy;
- protect their identity and whereabouts;
- use their phones responsibly;
- agree with friends never to share each other's personal details without permission;
- always report inappropriate, distressing and scary contact; and
- have an understanding of mobile phone and message misuse.

If staff become aware of any misuse of mobile phones, they need to:

- confiscate the phone and take it to the student reception for safe keeping and do not allow students to remove the SIM card;
- report the incident to the relevant pastoral staff (Head of Year, Year Manager) who will inform parents/carers;
- not delete or allow the student to delete any inappropriate texts, messages or images;
- help and support students involved; and
- consult with the school's designated safeguarding lead about dealing with the matter through the school's own anti-bullying procedures.

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees on 19 October 2023