

JOHN COLET SCHOOL
MOBILE PHONE/PERSONAL MUSIC DEVICES POLICY

Issues

- Phones ringing in lessons; texts being received and sent. This causes significant disruption to the flow of the lesson.
- Mobile phones/ipods/MP3 players (some have been very expensive) being lost.
- PE staff being asked, by students, to take responsibility for phones during PE lessons. This can amount to over 30 phones at a time which causes logistical problems.
- Worrying parents/carers about issues that can be dealt with very easily by the school
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones

We decided that we need to address the issue of mobile phones/personal music devices in school. We have not gone for an outright ban of mobile phones as we are aware that students have them for emergency reasons but have gone for a “No See, No Hear” approach. It is expected that mobile phones will be switched off during the school day (8.30am -2.55pm).

If a mobile phone/personal music device is seen or heard in school (including break and lunch time) then the item will be removed and put in a secure place until a parent/carer is able to come in to collect it. Staff will not be able to look after phones/personal music devices. Parents/carers need to be aware that mobile phones/personal music devices are not covered by school insurance. Any item brought into school is at the student’s own risk.

On a number of occasions in lessons, the caller has been a parent contacting their child. If a parent/carer needs to contact their child then please phone the school office. The message will then be passed on to the child. If a child needs to phone home, then they can use the pay phone in reception or in emergencies, they can use the school phone.

There have been circumstances where a student, following an incident, has contacted a parent/carer during the school day using their mobile phone. The parent/carer has then come straight into school demanding to see a member of staff. Very often, the school has not been aware of any issue at this point or has been in the process of investigating it prior to contacting the parent/carer. We wish to work in partnership with parents but a parent/carer coming straight into school and demanding to see someone straightway is not acceptable. Any parent/carer who comes into school during the school day following mobile phone contact with their child will be asked to go back home and to phone the school to make an appointment. The student’s mobile phone will also be confiscated as it has been used during the school day.

Mobile phones have many positive uses. However, they can also be abused, for example, text bullying and “Happy Slapping”. These are not acceptable at John Colet. If the school comes across such instances then the student concerned will be dealt with accordingly. In some cases, the Police may become involved.

Sixth Form students are allowed to use their mobile phones in their Common Room. Any confiscated Sixth Form phone is returned by the Head of Sixth Form.

This policy covers all students at John Colet including the Sixth Form.

February 2009