



KING JAMES I ACADEMY

Mobile Phone Policy for Staff & Students

Mobile Phone Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy provides guidance on the appropriate use of personal mobile phones by members of staff and students. This Mobile Phone Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phones' also refers to other SMART devices, such as SMART watches.

2. Staff Policy

- Teaching staff should only use their mobile phones outside of teaching time, discreetly and appropriately e.g. not in the presence of students whenever possible.
- Non-teaching staff should only use their mobile phones during break time and lunchtime, discreetly and appropriately e.g. not in the presence of students unless in an emergency.
- Mobile phones should be switched off or to silent and kept in a safe place during lesson times.
- Staff should never contact students or parents from their personal mobile phone, or give their mobile phone number to students or parents. If a member of staff needs to make telephone contact with parents or students, a school phone should be used.
- Staff should never send to, or accept from, colleagues or students, texts or images that could be viewed as inappropriate.
- With regard to camera mobile phones, a member of staff should never use their phone to photograph or record any type of image of a student(s), or allow themselves to be photographed by a student(s).
- Staff are permitted to use their mobile phone for Academy purposes, and this supersedes the points above, when the circumstances are appropriate. For example, when communication is needed on school trips and visits or to fulfil 'On-Call' responsibilities, or when direct contact with other members of staff is necessary.

This guidance should be seen as a safeguard for members of staff and the Academy. Staff should understand that failure to comply with the policy could result in the enforcement of disciplinary procedures.

3. Student Policy

- 3.1 Students will be permitted to bring a mobile phone to the Academy, where parents are in agreement, and where possession of a mobile phone would be of significant and demonstrable benefit to the student. An example of this would be so that parents can contact pupils on their way to and from school. Whilst a traditional watch is permitted under our uniform policy, this does not include any form of SMART watch which must not be worn at any time.

- 3.2 The students' mobile phone should be switched off upon arrival at the Academy (before they enter the Academy gates) and kept at the bottom of the students' bag or in another safe place until the end of the school day when they can turn the mobile phone back on once they leave school (after they have left the Academy gates). If a student needs to make or receive an emergency call, then this should be done through the Main Reception and as agreed by a member of staff. Parents/Carers who need to contact their child in the case of an emergency can do so by phoning the Main Reception on (01388) 603388 between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm. A pupil should never be contacted on their phone by parents during the school day. Academy staff conduct random spot-checks during lessons and in corridors, to ensure that pupils continue to maintain our high standards with regards to use of mobile phones and other devices. These checks help promote our zero-tolerance approach with regards to pupils using mobile phones whilst on the Academy site.
- 3.3 If the student does not comply with these rules then the mobile phone will be confiscated and will not be returned to the pupil until parents or another appropriate adult collect the phone on their behalf (first and second occasion). Any further instance will be deemed to be a significant breach of the Academy Behaviour Policy and will be dealt with as such. This will result in the mobile phone being confiscated, with parents then required to collect the mobile phone from the Academy reception, as in the first and second instances. A permanent banning letter will then be issued to parents, which will prohibit the student from bringing their mobile phone on to the Academy site until an agreed date, determined by the Academy. Any breach of this will result in parents being asked to attend a meeting in school. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to hand in a mobile phone which is being confiscated, the pupil will be given a chance to reconsider their decision as part of a reflection on their own behaviour. Should the pupil continue to refuse to hand the phone to the given member of staff after a reasonable period of reflection has been allowed, a fixed-term suspension from school will be issued, a period of time in the Inclusion Centre will be served upon the child's return to school, and parents may be required to attend a meeting with an appropriate member of staff. In all cases, confiscated mobile phones will be kept securely in the safe in the main Academy office.
- 3.4 Mobile phones and other personal devices, where brought into the Academy, will be the sole responsibility of the student concerned and the Academy will accept no responsibility for any subsequent damage or loss.
- 3.5 Under no circumstances should a mobile phone be used to record still or video images, or to record audio whilst on the Academy premises. Any infringement of this rule will be deemed to be a significant breach of the Academy's Behaviour Policy and will be dealt with as such.
- 3.6 Students must also note that under no circumstances should a mobile phone be taken into an examination room, as this will result in a report being submitted to the relevant Awarding Body and that student's marks being cancelled in line with national examination regulations.

- 3.7 Sixth Form students are permitted to carry a mobile phone to school, but are permitted to use them in Sixth Form areas only and not in corridors or in lessons.