



**MERCHANT  
TAYLORS'  
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls  
aged 4 to 18 years

# Mobile Phone Policy

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Mobile Phone Policy</b>
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Reviewed:	September 2018
Review:	September 2019

## MERCHANT TAYLORS' BOYS' SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

### Background

Merchant Taylors' Boys' School recognises the importance of mobile phones and tablets in boys' lives. We also acknowledge that they are a vital means of communication between boys and their parents in the case of an emergency or when travel plans change.

We have installed a WiFi network across the school site and encourage boys to "Bring Your Own Device" so that they can access the internet via our network – our expectations for this are set out in our ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Increasingly, mobile devices will become a resource in lesson planning and delivery.

As an educational establishment, we must also be aware of the negative impact that excessive mobile phone usage can have on the learning and social interactions of young people. There have been many reports in the media of research which has proven that these detrimental effects exist and of schools where restrictions on mobile phone use have seen an improvement in academic achievement:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2012/nov/27/should-mobiles-be-banned-schools>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20511309>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11828052/Sir-Michael-Wilshaw-Any-head-worth-their-salt-should-stand-up-and-ban-mobiles.html>

The aim of this policy is to strike a balance between the convenience of having a mobile phone and patterns of use which may impede the academic progress of a boy or reduce the opportunities which he chooses to take advantage of. It is our expectation that boys in the Lower School will engage with at least two weekly activities at lunchtime. It is our experience that many of them are not doing this as they are spending the majority of their lunchtime on their mobile phones.

This policy sets out a tiered approach to mobile phone usage on the school site, recognising the fact that sixth form boys will have more experience and maturity and will have learned about moderate use of mobile phones as they have progressed through the school.

### Mobile phone usage

- The school does not set out to prohibit boys from bringing mobile phones into school. Instead, this policy restricts their use during the school day. For the purposes of this policy, mobile phone usage includes the use of a mobile device as a telephone, for text messaging, for access to the internet & social media and as a music player.
- Mobile phones should never be used whilst in school unless directed to by a member of staff, eg. During form period for checking firefly, or during a lesson as part of an activity.
- Mobile devices must never be used to photograph or take video footage of boys or staff during the school day, unless under the direct supervision of a member of staff.
- Boys will have access to their phones at the end of the school day, should they need to make contact with parents over travel arrangements etc.
- Sixth form boys are permitted to use their mobile phones in the sixth form common room during the school day, but not anywhere else on site.

## **Sanctions**

Escalating sanctions will be applied if boys fail to adhere to this policy:

1. A mobile phone should be removed by the teacher if a boy is using his phone inappropriately. The teacher should keep the phone in a safe place and arrange for the boy to collect it from them at a point later in the day.
2. Record any issues on Firefly as a disruption in the Rewards and Sanctions tab.
3. If a boy is persistently having his phone removed then the teacher can refer upwards to Year Head, Group Tutor and Deputy Head (Pastoral).
4. Transgressions may result in school detentions.

### **Staff**

Many staff use their mobile phone as an integral part of their working day. Teaching staff may communicate with parents or staff at other schools. Caretakers and the Nurse are on call throughout the day and use their mobile phones for immediate contact with colleagues who may not be able to speak to them directly. However, we must model the behaviour which we expect of our pupils. To that end, staff use of mobile phones must be discreet and, wherever possible, conversations must be conducted in an office, an empty classroom or the Common Room.

Staff must never use their mobile phones as a means of communication or for browsing the internet during lesson time. However, mobile phone use during lesson time is acceptable in the context, and as an integral part of, a BYOD lesson.

Staff must never use their mobile phone to photograph boys. If photographs are required, a school camera should be used or, preferably, photographs should be taken by a member of the marketing department.