

Mobile Phone Policy

MTBS

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Merchant Taylors'
School

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MERCHANT TAYLORS' BOYS' SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

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.

As an educational establishment, we must 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>

Whilst mobile phones can be an excellent tool for education, we feel that restrictions need to be applied to Years 7-11 in order to benefit our students. With the emergence of one-to-one devices,, students are not allowed to use their mobile phone in school. Phones may be brought to school (we realise that some students require their phones after the school day has ended) but for the duration of their time on the school site, phones must remain switched off and kept in their pocket/bag.

Students in the Sixth Form are afforded the privilege of being able to use their phones within the Sixth Form Centre. We ask that this is the only space that they are used, and that when walking around the school site, phones are kept in a pocket or bag.

With this school policy, some questions may arise:

What if I need to contact my son urgently during the school day?

- If there is an emergency and you need to get a message to your son before the end of the school day, please call Reception, where a message will be relayed to your son. Please note interruptions to lessons are for emergency situations only.

What if my son needs to contact me during the school day?

- In a similar vein, your son may come to Reception, where they will be able to use the school phone. All parental contact details are stored on the school system.

What if my son needs to use their phone during a lesson for educational purposes?

- As previously stated, phones can be an excellent pedagogical device. Some teachers may wish to utilise this as part of their lesson, should their class not be on the initial roll-out of one-to-one devices. In this instance, under teacher instruction, phones may be used as part of an academic lesson.



My son's timetable is on Firefly. How can he check this throughout the school day?

- If your son's year group is being issued one-to-one devices, checking of timetables will become part of Registration time in the morning. Student timetables will automatically be populated into Microsoft Teams and their Calendar, an application that students will utilise in most lessons, so checking this will not be an issue. Students usually become extremely familiar with their timetable within the first 3-4 weeks of beginning a new academic year. For those students who do not have one-to-one devices, a paper copy of their timetable will be available at the beginning of the year. We would also advise students to check their timetable in the evening for the following day.

Sanctions

Should a boy be found with his mobile phone out without being instructed, the phone will be confiscated. The phone will be placed in a padded envelope and handed in to Reception, where it may be collected at 4pm by the student. This will be recorded on as a sanction on 3Sys.

Sanctions are monitored by Form Tutors, and should a student be consistently flouting the School rule on mobile devices, further sanctions may be applied (Head of Year Detention, Main School Detention).

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.

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.