



23 September 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I wrote to you before the start of the school year to advise that we were reviewing our mobile phone policy. I now write to inform you of an important update regarding our school's mobile phone policy for Years 7-11 (This policy is not applicable to Sixth Form Students).

After careful consideration and review, we have decided to implement a new policy whereby mobile phones will no longer be allowed on school premises. The new policy will be effective from Monday 28 October 2024. This decision has been made to better safeguard the learning environment, ensure the welfare of all students, and uphold the ethos of our school community.

Why the Change?

Our primary goal is to create an optimal learning environment where all students can focus on their education without unnecessary distractions. Mobile phones, while useful in many contexts, have increasingly become a source of disruption in classrooms and during school activities. By eliminating their presence on school grounds, we aim to enhance students' engagement, academic performance and mental wellbeing.

Moreover, this policy will help us maintain a safe and respectful environment. We want to minimise issues related to cyberbullying, unauthorised use of cameras, and other concerns that could arise from mobile phone usage.

Implementation and Support

To facilitate a smooth transition, we ask for your support in ensuring that students leave their mobile phones at home. However, if you still feel that there are exceptional circumstances that require your child to bring their mobile phone into school each day, please complete the mobile phone request form which can be found here <https://forms.gle/Xu4kBZk3DtRzb12L6> by **30th September 2024**. All requests will be carefully considered and parents will be informed of the outcome. Please note that the school will only allow a mobile phone to be brought into school in the case of exceptional circumstances.

If permission is granted for your child to bring a mobile phone into school this year, they will be required to place their mobile phone in a secure locker whilst they are in school. When they arrive at school each day, your child will be required to put their phone in their locker and to collect it when leaving school.

Lockers must be used in line with the terms outlined below. To secure the use of a locker, a £20 refundable deposit is required on an annual basis. Your child will be given a key for a locker, which they will be responsible for keeping. The £20 deposit will be returned at the end of the school year if the key is returned and the locker is not damaged. Deposits can be paid via ParentPay to secure a locker.

We understand that this change in policy may require some adjustments and are committed to working with students and parents to address any concerns that may arise.



Your Cooperation

We appreciate your cooperation and support in reinforcing the importance of this policy with your child. Together, we can work towards fostering an environment that supports and enhances every student's educational experience.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year leader by emailing us at info@brgs.staracademies.org or sending a message through the Synergy Gateway.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Johnstone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Johnstone

Principal

Mobile Phone Rules & Hire Terms

Pupils who have been given permission to bring a mobile phone into school, must follow each of the rules listed below.

1. You must have permission from the school and your parent/guardian to bring a phone into school.
2. You will need to hire a phone locker for which you will be given a key. There is a refundable deposit of £20. This will be returned at the end of the year if the locker is not damaged and the key is not lost.
3. You must lock the mobile phone in your designated locker at the start of the school day.
4. Only you can drop off or pick up your phone.
5. If you have an intervention/detention, you must collect your phone after the session.
6. You must not use your phone on the school premises
7. You must not allow other pupils to use your phone.
8. You must not take photos or record video/audio anywhere on the school site. This also applies when travelling on school transport, including buses, or if you are in school for holiday or before/after school intervention classes.
9. You must not take or share images/videos of others without their permission, or publish/distribute any images/videos made of students in their school uniform (this also applies when off the school site).
10. If you break any of these rules, you will no longer be able to bring your mobile phone to school.
11. The school accepts no liability for loss or damage of your mobile phone whilst on school premises or when travelling to or from school.