

Beaucroft School



Mobile Phone Policy 2022

Issue Date: June 2022	June 2023
Date Adopted:	
Signed By:	
Approval Committee: Governing Body	

Beaucroft Mobile Phones Policy

Guidance on Pupil Use of Mobile Phones

This policy is to provide guidance and information on some of the issues arounds the use and misuse of mobile phones at Beaucroft Foundation School. It will clearly set out the school's expectations and rules around their use.

Introduction Purpose:

For many adults and young people today the ownership of a mobile phone is considered a necessary and vital part of their working and social life. There are a growing number of pupils who now have personal ownership of a mobile phone, including smart phones with internet capability, an integrated camera and video recording capability. When used creatively and responsibly this type of phone has great potential to support pupils' learning experiences and Beaucroft is beginning to incorporate such devices, along with other well established mobile devices such as the I-pad or tablet computers, into their curriculum.

- The widespread ownership of mobile phones among young people requires that school administrators, support staff, teachers, students, parents, and carers take steps to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly within Beaucroft School.
- Beaucroft School recognises the potential for both mobile phones and cameras to be used inappropriately and compromise the confidentiality of the children in our care.
- This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed.
- Beaucroft School has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, support staff, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during school hours.
- Parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy before students are given permission to bring mobile phones to school.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, residential visits, extra-curricular activities or when deemed necessary for curriculum activities e.g. travel training.

Responsibility:

Reception – Yr 11 students bringing a phone into school should hand it into their class team for safe-keeping during the day – and collection at the end of the day. Exceptions to this rule may apply to pupils in the senior school who may need to access their mobile phones for curriculum activities throughout the week. Post 16 Students are allowed access to mobile devices if parents or students if over 18 have read and understood the Acceptable Use Policy. Mobile phones in post-16 should be kept in the student's locker switched off or on silent during classes.

Acceptable Uses and Misuse of Mobile Phones

Pupils:

Example of Misuse of Mobile Phones

- Online bullying by text, image and email messaging
- Taking and sharing inappropriate pictures
- Access to inappropriate websites bypassing the school filtering system
- General disruption to learning caused by pupils accessing phones in lessons
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other pupils
- Pupils phoning parents immediately following an incident so that the ability of staff to deal with an incident is compromised
- Pupils posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others
- The deliberate engineering of situations where people's reactions are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass and intimidate by publishing to a wider audience such as on Facebook or YouTube
- Publishing photographs of vulnerable pupils, who may be on a child protection plan, where

Parents / Carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school should be the first point of contact.

Staff:

- No member of staff should have a phone on their person during teaching time.
- Mobile phones can be used at break times outside, in the staffroom or in an empty room
- No staff member should ever give their personal phone numbers to pupils or parents.
- No member of staff will on any occasion use the camera function on their phone either in school or on educational visits.

Visitors:

All visitors (including parents and contractors) should switch off their phones when they are on school / college premises.

We recognise that there will be occasions where contractors may need to make calls on their mobile phones. This should not be done in the vicinity of students.

this may put them at additional risk

- The use of a mobile phone for 'sexting' (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)

Sign and agreed: Date: