



Mobile Phones / Other Devices

Dear Parent/Carer

As a result of their negative effect on learning, mobile phones and other devices are banned from the academy.

The principle points are listed below:

- Mobile phones may not be used anywhere on the school site at any time.
- Ideally, they should not be brought to school at all. However, if they are, they should be **'off and away'** at all times, any phone seen or heard will be confiscated; this includes headphones on display in pockets.
- If a phone is confiscated a call/text will be made home. The student will sit a detention on the same day.
- The restriction is in place at all times while students are on the school site, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds and not accessed until they have left site.
- Students who urgently need to contact home at the end of the day regarding after school arrangements may do so via the desk phone at student services.
- If parents need to contact their child urgently during the school day this needs to be done via our main reception switchboard who can get messages to students immediately.

Consequences of Misuse

- An instant C2 will be issued to any student seen with a mobile phone or other device.
- If the student has had their phone/device removed three times a call will be made for the parent/carer to collect the phone/device.
- Refusal to hand the phone over will result in immediate isolation and a parent meeting. It could also result in exclusion from the academy.
- The Principal has the right to look at the content of a mobile phone if there is suspicion of inappropriate usage.
- The academy will **take no responsibility** for mobile phones brought to school which are subsequently lost or damaged.

Rationale for the ban of mobile phone/other devices used in school

We have spent a great deal of time over the last few months examining the impact of the use of mobile phones in school. We have spoken to staff, students and parents and have looked at the latest research regarding their use in a school setting. The ban is based on the following research:

1. In the UK, more than 90% of teenagers own a mobile phone. This poses problems for Head teachers and in many cases attitudes to their use has hardened as they have become commonplace. In a survey conducted in 2001, no schools banned mobile phones. By 2007, this had risen to 50% and by 2012 some 98% of schools either did not allow mobile phones on school premises or required them to be handed in at the beginning of the day.



2. Our experience at North Oxfordshire Academy is that mobile phones increasingly create confrontation between staff and students in school and have been instrumental in causing conflict between students either before or after the school day. A number of children use them to access social media sites, involving themselves in cyber bullying etc. The situation is further complicated by the fact that many students see it as their “right” to have constant use of a mobile.
3. As well as the obvious social disadvantages of phone use in school, recent research has cast doubt on their educational worth. “*The Impact of Mobile Phones on Student Performance.*” by Louis–Phillipe Beland and Richard Murphy found that after schools banned mobile phones, the test scores of 16 year old students improved by 6.4%. Economists estimate this is the equivalent of adding five days to the school year.
4. There is growing evidence that the internet and digital gadgets are making it harder for us to concentrate. The Pew research centre in America surveyed 2,500 teachers and found that 87% felt modern technologies were creating an “easily distracted generation with short attention spans.” The UK Generation Y report felt that while young people are “undoubtedly capable of long periods of concentration” those who spend a lot of time alone using technology” tend to have less in the way of communication skills, self-awareness and emotional intelligence.”