



CAMPBELL
COLLEGE

EST 1894

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Prepared: August 2023
Next Revision: August 2025

This policy applies to all pupils of Campbell College and to pupils from other schools who are taught at the College as part of our Sixth Form collaboration whilst they are on College premises.

Background

Mobile phones are a dominant feature of modern society. In particular, they exert a powerful influence on the lives of young people. They bring many opportunities and advantages, but they also present many challenges to individuals, to families and to schools.

The purpose of this Mobile Phone Policy is **to help pupils manage their mobile phones to their benefit and to lessen the potential negative consequences from excessive mobile phone use**. It aims to **support pupils' overall wellbeing** by promoting face-to-face relationships, promoting physical activity and freeing them from the constant influence and distraction that phones can bring.

Mobile phones can enhance learning. They provide access to a wealth of online resources. The College's use of *Firefly* means that phones may be used to access homework tasks and resources. Mobile phones and other devices have been crucial for facilitating remote, online learning during periods of school closure.

However, mobile phones can also detract significantly from learning and from pupils' socialisation. When phones are switched on, pupils may receive a regular stream of notifications and this impacts significantly on their ability to focus on the task in hand. For many, a significant proportion of their time out-of-school is 'screen time' and it is vital for their physical and mental wellbeing that school offers a break from this.

It is also the case that the ever-increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology increases the possibilities of inappropriate use, particularly with regard to video and photographic capability. Aligned with social media, there is a significant risk of mobile phones being used as a source of online bullying.

The College recognises the benefits that phones can offer pupils and parents and realises that an outright ban would result in a loss of these benefits. It would prevent the use of phones in lessons to enhance learning. It would also stop pupils developing any capacity for self-control and independence, skills which they will need to study, live and work in the modern world. For some pupils and parents, they are a valued asset when it comes to safety and communication during the journey to and from school.

However, teachers and pupils have a right to teach and learn in a school environment which is free from the constant distraction of mobile phones. It is against this background that this policy has been developed and is implemented.

College Policy

Where pupils, with the permission of their parents, choose to bring a mobile phone to school, the following rules apply:

- Mobile phones should be **switched off and out of sight** between the hours of 8.40 and 3.30, except:
 - where invited by a teacher to use them as part of an activity in a lesson, or
 - at break or lunchtime, where they may only be used outside.
- Mobile phones should not be used in classrooms, except where invited to do so by a teacher. They should not be used in corridors or indoor communal areas of the College such as the Dining Hall or JCR.
- Phones should not be used to listen to music during lessons.
- Where pupils choose to bring a mobile phone to school, they accept responsibility for its security.

Sixth Form

In view of their relative maturity and to encourage the development of greater independence and self-regulation, Sixth Form pupils are accorded some privileges regarding the use of mobile phones in school. It is essential to their academic and social development that they use these privileges responsibly. It is also important that they model the responsible use of devices to younger pupils.

- Year 13 and Year 14 pupils are permitted to use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form Centre and Study Hall at break or lunchtime.
- Year 13 and Year 14 pupils are permitted to use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form Study Hall. They should only be used to access resources for assisting with study or to listen to background music which does not detract from the ability to concentrate. They should not be used to play games or for other purposes.

Sixth Formers need to recognise the need for, and demonstrate, maturity and self-control in ensuring that they use their phones responsibly.

- Outside of the Sixth Form Centre and Study Hall, the same rules apply to Year 13 and Year 14 as to the rest of the school. Phones should be switched off and out of sight, except when outside at break or lunchtime.

Parental Communication

- Parents are asked to support their son's adherence to this policy by not contacting him during the school day. In case of emergency, parents needing to contact pupils can do so by calling Front of House and the message will be conveyed as quickly as possible.

Implementation

- Tutors will instruct and remind pupils at First Commitments to ensure that their phone is switched off.
- If a pupil uses a mobile phone in class other than when asked to do so as part of a lesson activity, or inside the school building between 8.40 and 3.30 or outside except at break and lunchtime, he will be directed to switch the phone off and put it away.
- If a pupil is persistent in their use of a mobile phone, or defiant in their response to the College rules, their phone will be retained by a member of staff. Any member of staff is authorised to retain a pupil phone, teaching or support staff.
- If a phone is retained, it will be left at Front of House. The phone may not be collected by the pupil until the end of the school day.
- If a phone is retained for a second time, it will be left at Front of House. Parents will be informed and it may only be collected by a parent or another responsible adult. This will also be dealt with under the College's Positive Behaviour Policy.
- If a phone is retained more than twice, it will be passed to a Vice Principal or Senior Teacher, who will contact parents to arrange collection and to discuss the College's response. If necessary, an individual will be required to hand in his phone every morning or, with parental consent, banned entirely from bringing a phone to school.

Exemptions

The only exemption to this policy is when a pupil has been given special permission to keep a mobile phone with them for specific health-related reasons.

Review

The College will keep the implementation and effects of this policy under review. In doing so, the overriding consideration will be pupil welfare and the promotion of effective learning.

