



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

9th January 2023

Dear Parent

This term we are going to change our mobile device policy (outlined below) to ban mobile devices during the school day. We realise that this will be a big change for some pupils and we will, therefore, introduce the changes to pupils prior to the policy being enforced so that they have a period of adjustment before the consequences are introduced.

The school has always embraced new technology and we still would like pupils to use their mobile devices for educational purposes and their teachers will instruct them when in lessons this is appropriate. The reasons why we do not wish the pupils to have their mobile devices are:

- Mobile phones are a distraction and we are actively seeking to reduce screen time which can enhance both physical and mental wellbeing.
- Social media is the cause of many friendship and self-esteem problems in school. Evidence shows that banning mobile devices during the school day also reduces the number of bullying incidents in schools.
- The internet has content which can be used inappropriately and we have seen an increase in incidents, since the lockdown periods, of pupils having inappropriate content on their devices.
- We want to encourage pupils to talk and socialise with their friends in real life at breaks and lunchtimes.

Please find below the policy which will be introduced to pupils this week, with the week beginning 16th January as an adjustment week and the policy being fully enforced from Monday 23rd January.

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY – JANUARY 2023

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Mobile Devices and accessories:

Pupils are permitted to bring mobile devices and electrical devices to school but do so at their own risk. Whilst pupils are in the building in the school day, from 8.00am – 3.05pm, (plus during detention) we operate a no mobile device policy. All pupils are expected to **turn off** and put away all electrical devices and accessories. If a member of staff sees or hears a device the pupil will be asked to turn it off and put it away in their bag and will also be issued with a C3. If a pupil refuses to put their device away or is rude towards the member of staff their mobile device will be confiscated and handed to reception where parents will collect it. Pupils are not permitted to use their mobile



Principal:
Vice Principal:

Mr G. Pearson
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devices without permission whilst they are on school site. This includes before school, breaks, lunchtime, lesson change over and after school.

Mobile devices are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school reception remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Parents/carers are politely reminded not to contact their children at any time during the school day via their mobile device.

Apple watches and similar watch types are discouraged due to their high value but are permissible but are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk.

Pupils' mobile devices **must** be switched off and in their bag during the school day.

Pupils are not to use their mobile devices between lessons, breaks or lunchtimes.

- If a pupil's mobile device is seen during the school day on the school grounds (inside the safeguarding fence) the member of staff will ask for the device to be put back in their bag and switched off immediately. A C3 will be issued and a note will be made on ARBOR (school management information system).
- For a second mobile device offence in a week the device will be confiscated for the day and the pupil will receive a 3pm - 5pm detention. A phone call will be made to parents outlining consequences for any further mobile device offences. Parents will be required to collect the device from main reception before 4pm.
- Mobile devices should not be used to audio record, photograph or video staff members or other pupils without their permission (this is a breach of GDPR). To do so constitutes a serious offence and would lead directly to a 3pm - 5pm detention and confiscation of the device until a parental meeting is held.
- There are some instances where a teacher may wish pupils to use their devices for an educational purpose. When this is the case, this will be clearly indicated by the teacher and pupils will switch their devices back off and put them back in their bags at the end of the activity.
- Pupils should not use a mobile device as a calculator. Pupils are expected to come to school equipped with a calculator. If a pupil is unable to purchase a calculator, please contact the PSA for your child's year group.
- Pupils are allowed to bring devices on school day trips so they can contact parents/carers



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in the event of a delay or change to a return time. Guidance will be given prior to each trip as to the appropriate use of mobile devices.

- Headphones are not expected to be seen during lessons, tutor time or in the movement between lessons. No AirPods or equivalent are permitted in school.
- Sixth form students are permitted to use mobile devices and headphones (including AirPods) but these should not be used whilst walking around the school.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson
Principal



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