



Student Mobile Phone Policy

This Policy applies to students at Quorn Hall School and is available on our website. It should be read in conjunction with our Positive Behaviour Support Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Counter-Bullying Policy.

Rationale:

Camera mobile phones are now the norm and a built-in digital camera enables users to take high-resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or in chat rooms. There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils and/or teachers.

Parents, visitors in school policy

Adults, visitors or volunteers in school should only use their mobile phones within the confines of the school office or staff room. Personal cameras and mobile phone cameras should not be used to take pictures of children.

Pupil Policy

While we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a mobile phone to school to use while in transition to and from school, the child must hand their phone in to a member of staff upon arrival. However, parents are advised that Quorn Hall School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to mobile phones which are brought into school or school grounds. Quorn Hall School discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school due to the potential safeguarding risk.

Students who benefit from listening to music as part of their self-regulation will be offered alternatives by the SENCO e.g. an MP3 player.

As part of the curriculum (IT and PSHE), students will learn about ways to manage risks including how to report cyber-bullying. The school participates in events such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying Week, where key messages are reinforced. The staff team will also use naturally occurring opportunities to reinforce messages about safer ways to respond e.g. if a friend sends an indecent image. As part of PSHE and IT lessons, all students will continue to learn about keeping themselves safe online and the risks associated with being online, including criminal offences such as sexting.

When a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the office team or SLT and the phone will not be returned and a letter will be sent home to parents requesting permission for the phone to be returned the next day.

If students continue to bring their mobile phones into school and refuse to hand them in, then the school will not return the phone until an appropriate adult collects the phone from school in person.

If a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage with a mobile phone of either other pupils or teachers, this will be dealt with accordingly in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy.

We ask that parents should talk to their children about the appropriate use of text messages as they can often be used to bully pupils.

Should parents need to contact pupils or vice versa during the school day, this should be done via the usual school procedure of contacting the school office via phone or email.

The policy supports the Health & Safety, Anti-bullying, Child Protection, Safeguarding and Internet/E Safety policies.