

## **Rationale**

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our pupils own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the phone e.g. for texting while on silent mode.

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought into school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones each morning and return them each afternoon. It is our policy to allow pupils to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

## **Policy**

1. Phones must not be used for any purpose e.g. phoning, texting, surfing the internet, taking photographs, checking the time, listening to music, using the calculator or taking video's between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.25 p.m.
2. Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view.
3. If a pupil breaches these rules the phone will be confiscated and given into the main office. It will be returned to the pupil only at the end of the school day.
4. Phones must not be taken into examinations.
5. Where teaching staff suspect that a mobile phone has been used to record or show violent or offensive material. The phone will be confiscated and given to the main office. It will then only be returned to the pupil's parent or guardian following a suitable resolution to the matter.

## **Emergencies**

- If a pupil needs to contact his/her parents/guardians they will be allowed to use the school phone.
- If parents need to contact children urgently they should contact the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

## **Responsibility for Mobile Phones**

Ashley High School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure that mobile phones are correctly looked after and adequately insured.