

The Axe Valley Community College

Mobile Phone Policy (3rd October 2011)

The College recognises that mobile phones are now an important aspect of everyone's life and have considerable value, particularly in relation to individual safety. The College therefore accepts that students are permitted to bring mobiles to the College but that use is limited and restricted.

The College aims to educate students in the responsible use of technology.

Responsible Use

Students must use mobile phones responsibly at all times.

1. Students must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading or pornographic images. The transmission of some information is a criminal offence.
2. Cyber-bullying is completely unacceptable. Incidents where this occurs will be dealt with robustly through the college's anti-bullying policy.
3. Secretly recording other students or members of staff in college is completely unacceptable. Incidents where this occurs will be dealt with robustly through the college's behaviour policy.
4. The college is a learning environment; our expectation is that students' phones must be switched off and kept in bags during and between lessons so that a positive learning atmosphere can be maintained.

Note: All points in the policy apply to phones, Ipods, MP3, MP4 players, cameras and any similar devices.

Rules

1. Whilst permission is given for phones to be brought to the College, responsibility for the phone rests with the student and the College will take no financial responsibility for loss. The college bears no responsibility for confiscated items.
2. Students must not use phones during or between lessons. This means that phones must not be used for example, for making calls, checking the time, texting or used as a calculator. Phones etc must not be visible during or between lessons, they must be switched off and stored in the student's bag.
3. Head phones must not be worn during or between lessons
4. Students must not use phones or MP3 players to broadcast music.
5. If there is an emergency which requires communication with home, students must speak to a member of staff who will deal with the matter. Permission may be granted to use the mobile phone, depending on the circumstances. In an emergency parents / carers should phone Reception and a message will be taken to the student. Parent / carers must not use mobile phones to communicate with their child during the school day.

6. Mobile phones cannot under any circumstances be taken into examination rooms. Breach of this rule will lead to invalidation of that examination and potentially other examinations.
7. Students need to acknowledge that it is a privilege to be permitted to bring mobile phones to College and abuse of this policy may lead to a curtailment of this privilege.
8. During PE lessons students are required to hand their phones to member of staff who will store them securely during lesson. Changing rooms are not locked during lessons and the Leisure Centre is a public facility where thieves do operate. The college accepts no responsibility or financial liability for phones or other electronic items stolen or damaged during PE lessons.
9. Sixth formers are permitted to use their phones / MP3 players during the school day. Phone use is restricted to the Sixth Form Centre. MP3 players are permitted in lessons where the teacher allows this.

Breach of rules

1. Students who break the rules above will have their phones confiscated by a member of staff. These will be taken to Jenny Williams (Head's PA) and they will be sealed in a envelope and safely stored. The confiscation will be recorded.
2. 5 Penalty Pounds will be allocated to the student for 'rule infringement' and this will carry an automatic year leaders' detention.
3. Students will be able to collect their phone at the end of the following day. If they require use of a phone to contact parents / carers use of the college phones will be made available.
4. Where a phone has been used in suspected storage or transmission of unsuitable material or cyber bullying the phone will be returned to parents or may be passed to the police.
5. Where students refuse to hand over a phone on request, college rules, as set out in Behaviour Policy, would apply and this would be considered as 'refusal to comply'.

Martin Smith
Headteacher