

S30 Mobile Phone / Electronic Devices Policy

Last Reviewed:

May 2019

Next Review:

May 2021

Responsible:

The Principal

The Bushey Academy is a learning focused community. Whilst we recognise and celebrate the developments in technology and electronic communication, our policy is that mobile phones, other personal forms of communication devices (eg tablets, Apple watches) and personal headphones are not allowed to be used at the academy during the school day.

Schools have found that:

- Cyber-bullying has become a national problem which schools want to prevent as much as possible
- Lessons are often disrupted by phone or text messages, and by personal music
- Punctuality to lessons is reduced due to the use of mobile phones by students
- The use of web based communication can become obsessive and is not conducive to positive self-esteem and emotional well-being
- The public examination boards regard mobile phones as unacceptable and the presence of a mobile phone in an exam room can lead to the disqualification of the student.

As an academy, we want to promote positive, face to face social interaction between our students and we feel that the use of mobile phones and the above electronic communication devices often prevents this from happening.

For these reasons, it is not permitted for students to utilise mobile phones or any of the above electronic devices or personal equipment during the school day.

Should parents or carers require their child to have a phone for the journey to and from the academy, then the phone must be kept switched off and out of sight at all times during the school day. This includes break and lunchtimes. Students will only be allowed to utilise their phones and other electronic equipment in the above situation once they have left the academy's main buildings at the end of the school day.

The Bushey Academy will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones or other electronic equipment.

Mobile phones and the above electronic equipment will be confiscated if they are seen during the school day. The device will be taken to the LRC, placed in a named ziplock bag and secured. It will be returned to the student at the end of school on a Friday. Should a parent or carer wish to collect the

device at an alternative time, they will need to contact the student receptionist to book an appointment to come to the academy during our normal working hours.

Any parent or carer who wishes to contact their son or daughter urgently during the academy day should ring the Student Receptionist and the message will be passed on to the student at an appropriate time.

Should a student need to make an urgent phone call to a parent or carer during the academy day, then they may go to their year office during break or lunchtime where a phone will be made available to them.