

This Policy applies to all students of Gretton School and is shared with students, parents and staff, including senior leaders, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, anyone working on behalf of Gretton School, external agencies and members of the public.

Introduction and Aims

At Gretton School the welfare and well-being of our students is paramount. The aim of the Mobile Phone Policy is to allow users to benefit from modern communication technologies, whilst promoting safe and appropriate practice through establishing clear and robust acceptable mobile user guidelines.

This is achieved through balancing protection against potential misuse with the recognition that mobile phones are effective communication tools. It is recognised that it is the enhanced functions of many mobile phones that cause the most concern, offering distractions and disruption to the working day, and which are most susceptible to misuse - including the taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. However as it is difficult to detect specific usage, this policy refers to ALL mobile communication devices.

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping students to feel safe and secure. Therefore students need to:

- Have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse.
- Know how to minimise risk.
- Avoid putting themselves into compromising situations.
- Understand the need for boundaries and clear guidelines re use in school.

The use of phones (inc. receiving/sending texts and emails) should be limited to break and personal time, and not in class during lesson time at any point during the school day.

Should there be exceptional circumstances (e.g. acutely sick relative), then the student should make their class staff aware and can have their phone with them in case of having to receive an emergency call.

Students are not at any time permitted to use recording equipment on their mobile phones, for example: to take recordings of other children, or sharing images. Legitimate recordings and photographs should be captured using school equipment only. Staff and students should report any usage of mobile devices that causes them concern to the Headteacher.

Consequences of misuse

Mobile phones used in school at inappropriate times, without permission could be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Where mobile phones are used in or out of school to bully or intimidate others, then the Head Teacher does have the power to intervene 'to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of students when they are off the school site'.