



PARTNER OF THE EVERYONE MATTERS SCHOOLS TRUST

Policy on the use of mobile telephones and other electronic equipment

Everyone Matters

We expect our community to be kind, polite and respectful

Everyone Helps

We expect our community to make sensible choices

Everyone Succeeds

We expect our community to work hard

Policy Owner	Principal
Scope of the Policy	Rainford High
Written/last reviewed	June 2023
Next review due	June 2024
Summary of key changes	Removal of reference to COVID





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Introduction

There exists some concern about the possibilities of disruption to lessons caused by the use of mobile telephones and other electronic equipment in school. Telephones with the capability to take photographs and digital cameras themselves can be misused so as to infringe the right to personal privacy. The possession of mobile telephones and other types of electronic equipment can jeopardise candidates' positions in public examinations. All Examination Boards threaten disqualification from all subjects for students found with any electronic equipment in an examination. Student use of social media is often negative and leads to friendship conflict and potentially bullying.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

As a consequence of the issues raised above:

- Mobile telephones must not be used **or be visible or heard** during the school day unless a member of staff gives permission.
- Students will be allowed to use mobile telephones before 8.45am and after 3.15pm.
- Videos or voice recordings are not to be taken on School premises by students without permission. This means that no photographs or videos can be taken with mobile telephones at any time either inside or outside of the building, unless instructed to by a member of staff.
- Students cannot listen to music on phones during the school day.
- We accept that there will be times when parents feel it is desirable for their children to contact them or be contactable by them. If parents wish to contact students during the school day, they should telephone the school and a message will be sent to the child. If students wish to contact parents, they should seek permission from a member of staff before doing so.
- Mobile telephones used, seen or heard during the school day without permission will be confiscated. The first time the phone is confiscated, it will be returned at the end of the day. Further confiscations will need parents to collect the device.





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- Students who are using devices that are linked to their phone without authorisation will be confiscated along with the mobile, examples include using earphones linked to a phone, speakers or an electronic watch, such as an apple watch.

We use the line: Hear it, see it, use it, lose it as a way of remembering the rules in school.

PERSONAL MUSIC DEVICES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Problems arise in connection to personal music devices. Some students listen to these inappropriately, for example during lessons. Many of these devices are very expensive and provide a temptation to some students or are easily lost. As a consequence:

- We advise students not to bring personal music devices or other electronic equipment, which is expensive to school.
- Students must not use personal music devices in lessons or moving between lessons.
- Such devices will be confiscated if they are visible to a member of staff during lessons or lesson changeover.
- Students must not bring gaming devices into school.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Students must have the permission off a teacher to take images in school. With digital cameras the possibility of images being doctored or posted on the internet is an additional concern. Digital cameras also tend to be expensive and there are issues relating to security. As a consequence:

- Students should not have digital cameras in school unless at the direct request of a teacher. There are digital cameras in school for use in lessons and projects.
- Any unauthorised digital camera which is visible to a member of staff will be confiscated.





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CONSEQUENCES

If a student is in a situation where they are seen using a device, a staff member hears their devices, they are seen using the device either directly or indirectly then it will be confiscated.

The device will be given back at the end of the school day on the first occasion in an academic year but following that it will then be kept until parents collect it that evening. Parents/carers will receive a text message informing them of this. If parents cannot collect it then the device will remain in school overnight and it will be given back to the student the following school day at the end of the day.

