

The Magna Carta School

Mobile Device Policy

Principles

The Magna Carta School recognises that the advent and development of mobile electronic devices, including e-readers, tablet devices, smart watches and mobile telephones, offers a range of opportunities in education. In recognition of this it is the policy of the school to engage constructively with such devices where, in the view of educational professionals, there are clear educational reasons for doing so.

As with all technologies, The Magna Carta School also recognises that the presence of such devices presents potential challenges to and conflicts with its responsibility to ensure that all students are fully engaged within all lessons and that the safeguarding needs of all of its stakeholders are fully met. In order to attempt to balance these potential conflicts this policy has been introduced. In recognition of the rapidly changing nature of such devices, a 'mobile device' is broadly defined as any portable device capable of storing and retrieving data. Most modern mobile devices are also capable of capturing data independently as well.

I. Procedures

- a. Mobile electronic devices are not automatically banned from the school site. However, the decision to bring a mobile device to school is entirely that of students and their parents or carers. As such the school accepts no liability for loss or damage to such devices.
- b. The school reserves the right to ban specific mobile devices from the school site where it believes that the use of such devices would unacceptably undermine other policies, such as the school's safeguarding policy. The decision to ban a specific device or type of mobile device rests with the Head of School or delegated staff member.
- c. The School operates a 'gate-to-gate' policy. This means that students are allowed to bring mobile phones into school but that they may not be used, seen or heard at any time while students are on the school site. This includes before school, at breaks and lunchtimes, or taking part in extended day sessions or an extra-curricular activity. For the purposes of interpreting this part of the policy, headphones or other items that are normally attached to a mobile device should also be put away. If headphones are observed then they should be confiscated along with any device to which they are attached.
- d. Mobile devices and or peripherals that are visible be confiscated. On the first occasion the device will be placed in reception where it can be collected at the end of the day. The details of the student will be recorded and those students who have a device confiscated for a second time will be required to meet with their Pastoral Lead before the phone can be returned. Each subsequent breach (after two) of this rule will result in an after-school detention and the device will only be returned to a parent or guardian. Where there are repeated breaches of this rule (5 or more) students will be required to hand in their device to student reception at the start of the day.

- e. The school's policy on contacting students during the school day remains unaffected by this policy. If parents need to contact their child during the day then they should do so through the school reception. Similarly, a student who wishes to contact a parent or carer should also do this through reception. In exceptional circumstances out of normal school hours or when students are off-site, permission should be sought from the supervising member of staff before making use of a mobile device to contact home.

- f. Failure by a student to co-operate with the implementation of this policy and persistent breaches of the mobile device policy will be treated as a disciplinary matter in accordance with our Rewards and Sanctions policy.