

Chepstow School

Mobile Phone/ Listening to Music Policy

Key Responsibility: John Barnbrook

Last Review: January 2011

Next Review: 2014

Rationale:

These days most students carry mobile phones. To some extent, it is sensible for some pupils to have phones with them in school so that they can contact parents when unforeseeable situations arise.

In order to make sure that the use of these phones do not impact on the smooth running of lessons and do not impact on the rights of others there need to be restrictions and rules regarding their use in the school environment.

Similarly, a many students bring sophisticated i pods and other devices with them to listen to music whenever they can. The use of these also needs to be managed, particularly during lesson times.

Objectives:

- Ensure that lessons are not interrupted or disturbed by pupils using mobile phones and other portable devices
- Ensure that pupils concentrate fully on their work in lessons and are not engaged in listening to personal devices
- To support all people who work in Chepstow School against any infringement of their human rights and to maintain their personal privacy
- Ensure that examination protocol is adhered to
- To strike a balance between what is sensible and acceptable and what is not

The use of mobile phones and personal stereos during school hours.

Pupils are allowed to carry mobile phones with them in school but they must be kept out of sight and used in emergencies only. No student is permitted to use their mobile phone or personal stereo during lessons or on their way to lessons.

Some teachers may, on occasion, decide to allow listening to music to enhance the learning experience of groups but this decision is completely under the control and discretion of the classroom teacher and is in line with departmental policy.

Both mobile phones and personal stereos will be confiscated if they are being used during lesson time. Parents will be advised about any confiscation when the need arises.

Mobile phones, personal stereos and earphones must be put in bags during lessons and not on view about the person.

Mobile phones and examinations

Mobile phones and any type of listening device are banned from use in public examinations, such as GCSEs and A Levels. Pupils run the risk of having examination papers cancelled should they attempt to use mobile phones or personal stereos while sitting an external examination. This also applies to a phone ringing or receiving text messages during an examination. For this reason mobile phones and personal stereos are not allowed to be taken into examination rooms. Normally they must be switched off and left with the candidate's bag. They must not be kept with the candidate.

Similarly, the calculator facility on a mobile phone cannot be used in any examination.

Mobile phones and recording of sound, images and video

In the event of a mobile phone being used:

- to record sounds or accounts of teachers managing lessons,
- to secure photographic/video images of teachers or other pupils,
- to display video images of any persons in the school (e.g. happy slapping incidents), then the mobile phone will be confiscated.

Parents will be asked to collect the mobile phone and the individual student concerned will be banned from bringing a mobile phone into school for an indefinite period. In the case where a mobile phone is used to record sound, pictures or video images which are deemed to be an invasion of privacy the school will reserve the right to apply an appropriate sanction which could include exclusion from school and, in extreme cases, permanent exclusion. It is also possible that the individual student or teacher may wish to exercise their human right and take legal action which would initially engage outside agencies including the police.

Mobile phones and other portable devices are sophisticated and expensive pieces of equipment and the school will not take any responsibility for phone being lost or stolen in school.

Ratified by Governors at the Full Governors' Meeting on

Signed on behalf of Governors: _____ Chair