



TUXFORD
— ACADEMY —

Mobile phone policy

September 2023

Rationale

The term 'phone' in this policy denotes mobile phones, iPods, iPads, MP3, MP4 players and any similar portable electronic devices.

The academy recognises that mobile phones, cameras and digital devices are now an integral part of our culture and can be of considerable value, particularly in relation to personal safety. However, balanced with this is the need to safeguard children and staff from cyber bullying, inappropriate use of the Internet and telecommunications, and the misuse of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. Therefore, this policy has been compiled after consultation with parents and staff.

Use of personal mobile phones for students

The academy recognises that parents/carers in a rural community feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication home during travel to and from the academy. This helps with safeguarding and child protection especially in the long dark winter months. Tuxford Academy supports this approach wholeheartedly. To that end Tuxford Academy has adopted the following mobile phone best use policy:

- Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety, students will be responsible for safekeeping and the Academy take no responsibility for any loss or damage to any electronic equipment.
- Mobile phones which are brought into school must be turned off (not placed on silent) and stored out of sight as soon as the student arrives at the school gate. They must remain turned off and out of sight until the student has left the school site at the end of their day
- Any student found in possession of their phone during the school day will have the phone confiscated
- After the first confiscation students will be allowed to collect their phone at the end of the day from College reception
- Parents will be required to collect the mobile phone following the second or any subsequent confiscations
- Any refusal to hand a phone over to members of staff will result in a student being sanctioned in line with the behaviour policy
- Any requirement for a parent/carer to contact a student or a student to contact their parent/carer can be done through College receptions
- It is forbidden to record photographic images (still or video) or sound recordings of staff or students at any time without their explicit permission. If the phone is used to video students of staff without their knowledge or to video or film a fight or take part in cyber bullying students will not be permitted to bring your phone to school at all and the police may be contacted

- As young adults, Post 16 students are permitted to use mobile phones within Post 16 areas for educational purposes. Under no circumstances should phones be used outside of these areas. If students are found in possession of their phone during the school day outside these areas and/or using them for different purpose this will then lead to their phone being confiscated.

Responsibility for loss and disclaimer

As previously stated it is understood why parents may want their child to bring a mobile phone into school in a rural community. The academy retains no liability for any phone that is brought into academy which is either lost, stolen or damaged or used in a manner which is against the owner's consent.

Headphones

Headphones are subject to the same rules as mobile phones.

Smart Watches

If smart watches are used for communication purposes, they will be confiscated in line with the policy.