



# **ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

## **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

<b>Nominated Lead Member of Staff:</b>	<b>HM</b>
<b>Last Review Date</b>	<b>January 2024</b>
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	<b>September 2025</b>

# Introduction

At Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, 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. This policy on mobile phones includes all mobile communication devices such as tablets and especially those that have internet access.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following documentation:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Pastoral/Behavioural Policy
- ICT Code of Conduct
- Searching Students & Confiscation Policy

## Personal Mobile Phones – Students (Years 7-11)

We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many students and that they can play an important role in helping students to feel safe and secure. However, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can provide a means of bullying or intimidating others.

### Therefore:

- Mobile phones must not be seen in School ***unless the phone is being used for educational purposes in a lesson with the permission of a teacher.***
- Otherwise, mobile phones must be turned off during School hours.
- If a phone is used or heard, without permission, during School hours, it will be confiscated. The member of staff who confiscates the phone will inform you when it can be collected from Reception. Phones are not allowed in examination rooms.
- Phones may not be used in School for music playing without a teacher's permission.

## Mobile Phones and Child-on-Child/Staff Abuse

- Today's technology allows children to have unlimited and often unrestricted access to the internet. There is a danger therefore for child-on-child/staff abuse to take place online through:
  - Taking photographs or videos of other students/staff without their knowledge and consent.
  - Sharing of such content with others, without consent, with a view to humiliate or cause harm.

- Abusive, harassing, racist, misogynistic, homophobic, bi-phobic, and transphobic messages.
  - Non-consensual sharing of indecent nude and semi-nude images and/or videos, especially around chat groups.
  - Sharing of abusive images and pornography to those who don't want to receive such content.
  - Staff have the right to ask students who may be under suspicion for any of the above, to allow them to search through their phone.
- Infringements of the type above are likely to lead to a fixed term exclusion, or worse (to be decided upon by the Head Master).

### **Personal Mobile Phones – Students (6<sup>th</sup> Form)**

The same rules apply to students in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, however, use of phones is permitted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre.