

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale

Ysgol y Gogarth recognises that mobile phones are an integral part of our culture and can be of considerable value, particularly in relation to personal safety (e.g. pupils that walk home) or as a sensory aid during journeys home. However, balanced with this is the need to safeguard pupils from cyber bullying, inappropriate use of the Internet and telecommunications, and the misuse of social media and the use of mobile phones during lesson time.

Use of mobile phones at school

- Pupils are permitted to bring mobile phones to and from school to ensure that they have a comfortable journey or for personal safety reasons e.g. if they travel to school on foot
- If a pupil brings their phone to school they must hand the phone to the school reception or to their class teacher immediately upon arrival. The phone will be kept in a safe cupboard or drawer.
- Mobile phones will need to be labelled clearly with the pupil's name
- The phone can only be retrieved at the end of the school day
- Any pupil found in possession of their phone during the school day will be asked to hand it over to a member of staff – this will be followed by a phone call home to parents reminding them of the school policy
- If a pupil refuses to hand over their phone to a member of staff, parents will be contacted and asked to come and collect the phone from school
- Repeated misuse of the mobile phone will result in the school asking parents to keep the child's mobile phone at home
- We acknowledge that pupils within the 16+ department often bring mobile phones to school. Ysgol Gogarth's expectation is that pupil's hand over their devices to the class teacher at registration time and will receive them back at home time.
- Pupils attending college will be able to take their mobile phones with them. Some pupils may need to have restricted or supervised access to their devices during college hours. This will be determined on an individual pupil basis.

Residential Trips

During residential trips pupils will be expected to hand over their mobile phones to staff to be kept in a secure location. A fixed supervised period of use will be allowed in the evenings. Alternative forms of communication will be available to all pupils also e.g. Payphone at residential site.

Contact between parents/carers and pupils

- Any requirement for a parent/carer to contact a pupil during the school day must be made via the school reception
- Any requirement for a pupil to contact their parent/carer during the school day must be made via the school reception at the discretion of the class teacher

Responsibility for loss and disclaimer

Ysgol y Gogarth's advice is to leave mobile phones at home. The school does not accept any liability for a phone that is brought into school which is either lost, stolen or damaged or used in a manner which is against the owner's consent.



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