



THE
KING'S SCHOOL
CANTERBURY
JUNIOR KING'S

Mobile Phone and Smartwatch Policy

Responsible Person: Adam Pape (Deputy Head Pastoral)

Latest Review Completed: September 2023

Aims:

Mobile phones, smartwatches and other devices are now a feature of modern society. They are becoming an increasingly prominent part of young people's lives.

The aims of this policy are:

- to educate pupils in the responsible and appropriate use of mobile phone technology;
- to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by preventing 'cyberbullying' (see definitions);
- to help pupils take responsibility for their own e-safety (see definitions);
- to ensure mobiles/personal devices are used responsibly, according to school policies.

Definitions:

Cyberbullying is the deliberate use of information and communication technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, to upset someone.

E-safety means limiting the risks that pupils are exposed to when using technology, so that all technologies are used safely, appropriately and securely.

Education:

As part of the PSHE curriculum and embedded in the school curriculum, pupils across all year groups, will be educated in the responsible use of technology in an age-appropriate manner. Pupils will be made aware of the boundaries and consequences of misuse of technology.

Policy:

Smartwatches:

No pupil is permitted to wear a smartwatch at Junior King's.

Mobile phones:

Year 8:

In Year 8, pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones to school with the aim of educating them to use technology responsibly, and to prepare them for their education at The King's School, or other senior schools, where mobile phones are allowed, and responsible use is expected.

Year 8 pupils will be made aware of the following rules and boundaries:

- Pupils are required to name their mobile phones clearly.
- Each pupil must take full responsibility for his or her phone by protecting it with a PIN (Personal Identification Number). This number, known only to the pupil, will prevent others from using the device without the owner's permission.
- Year 8 pupils will be responsible for their own phones, which must be kept out of view.
- Phones must be switched off (not on silent mode) during the school day. The only exception to this is when a device forms part of an approved and directed curriculum-based activity, with the consent, and under the supervision, of a member of staff.
- Pupils will only be allowed to use mobiles once the school day has finished, primarily to check on travel arrangements. The aim is to encourage independence and a sense of responsibility.
- Pupils must not take mobile phones into changing rooms or toilets.
- Pupils will not be allowed to take any mobile phones into exams.

Years 3-7:

All pupils in Years 3-7 are forbidden to bring mobile phones to school, unless granted exceptional permission (see below).

Exceptions:

Boarders may bring mobile phones to school. Phones, which must be named clearly, will be used within the boarding house at those times prescribed by the house staff. Boarders' phones must be protected with a PIN (Personal Identification Number). This number, known only to the pupil, will prevent others using the device without the owner's permission. Boarders will be required to sign the 'Boarders' Mobile Phone Agreement'.

Pupils who come to school on public transport are allowed to travel with a clearly named mobile phone. Pupils will be expected to hand in their phone on arrival at school. Phones, which must be turned off, should be brought to the Staff Room, where they will be stored during the day. Phones should be collected from the Staff Room before departure.

School Trips:

Mobile phones are only permitted on certain trips. Parents will be notified, in writing, by the respective trip leader, and pupils will be expected to follow the school's 'Mobile Phone Agreement.'

Pupils are not permitted to bring smartwatches on school trips.

Rules and Sanctions:

All pupils are expected to use mobile phones responsibly and to adhere to the terms and conditions as set out in this agreement. Pupils who fail to comply will be sanctioned accordingly.

Smartwatches, and mobile phones brought to school without permission, will be confiscated immediately and returned only to a parent, guardian or houseparent.

Pupils are forbidden to use mobile phones within school hours for any purpose, including texting, phoning, taking still or moving images, checking the time, using Bluetooth, using as a calculator or surfing the internet.

Any pupil caught using a mobile phone during school time will have his or her phone confiscated for a 24-hour period. The phone will only be returned to a parent, guardian or houseparent. Repeated offences of this nature will result in longer confiscation periods, combined with sanctions under the Junior King's Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Mobile phones must never be used in any context that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to others.

If any pupil is found guilty of sending abusive or inappropriate messages/content via a mobile phone, or any other type of mobile device, the Deputy Head Pastoral will decide on appropriate disciplinary action in consultation with the Head. Confiscation will take place with immediate effect.

Any device found to include content which may be considered offensive, derogatory or would otherwise contravene the school conduct or child protection policies, will be confiscated with immediate effect. Such content includes anything that would be deemed age-inappropriate (e.g. pictures, music or games). The Deputy Head Pastoral will decide on appropriate disciplinary action.

If a pupil is discovered to have taken photographs or video footage with a device, of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence. The device will be confiscated with immediate effect and the Deputy Head Pastoral will decide on appropriate disciplinary action. If material is of an illegal content or a criminal offence has been committed, the police will be contacted for further investigation.

Procedures:

Pupils' mobile phones/personal devices may be searched by a computing technician, under the supervision of a member of the SMT. The search will be carried out in the presence of the pupil and, where appropriate, a parent/guardian/houseparent. Content may be deleted or requested to be deleted, if deemed to contravene school policies. A record of the device search will be kept by the school.

Searches of mobile phones/personal devices will only be carried out in accordance with the school's policy. www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation

We strongly recommend that parents contact the Internet Service Provider of their child's devices to discuss blocking access to inappropriate websites. We also advise that parents sign up to the National online safety website. Instructions to register have been sent to all parents.

Junior King's does not accept any responsibility for the theft, loss of, or damage to, mobile phones or any devices brought into school.