



# Ashfield Girls' High School



**“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”**

## Mobile Phone Policy

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## Ashfield Girls' Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones, alongside other forms of technology are changing the way and speed in which we communicate. They can provide security and reassurance for pupils and their parents; however, there are also associated risks - namely bullying, disruption to lessons and inappropriate web usage.

### COVID-19

- During the COVID-19 pandemic we must consider the health and safety risks associated with mobile phones. Pupils sharing phones, taking photos and videos in school with poor hand hygiene, as well as taking selfies together and therefore breaking social distancing can increase risk of the spread of COVID-19.

### Use of mobile phones is prohibited, unless under supervision from a member of staff

- We believe that unsupervised use of a mobile phone, or similar device, does not benefit the learning and teaching experience. Staff and pupils have a right to teach and to learn in a school environment that is safe and free from interruptions or distractions from mobile phones and other devices when not used for educational purposes.
- As a result, the use of mobile phones is prohibited during the school day. Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in school bags during school hours i.e. between 8.40am and 3.20pm (including lunch and breaktime). Silent or discreet settings are not acceptable.
  - The use of mobile phones includes, but is not limited to, sending and receiving of text messages, engaging on any social media platforms, creating video recordings, sending emails or creating images, without permission.
  - During internal and external examinations pupils are not permitted to bring a mobile phone into the examination hall or room under any circumstances. If a student is discovered with a mobile phone in an external examination, her paper will be declared invalid and she will be awarded a zero mark.

### Consequences of using a mobile phone during the school day

- A mobile phone, used without permission, will be removed from the student by a member of staff and sent to the main office. Items will only be returned at the end of the school day.
- Pupils who fail to follow these guidelines, will be sanctioned in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy.



## **Supervised use of a mobile phone is permitted in the following circumstances:**

- For medical purposes; for example, to read or record blood sugar levels for pupils with diabetes.
- In exceptional circumstances where the need has been identified by SLT.
- When requested to do so by the class teacher for a limited duration, for educational purposes, which includes, but is not limited to:
  - Logging into MS Teams
  - Recording an important date, e.g. a class test
  - Taking a photograph of work from the board
  - Downloading an image / video clip for use in a class project
  - Using a quiz app as part of a lesson.

## **In case of emergency, or medical necessity**

In the case of emergency or medical necessity, arrangements are in place for communication between school and home. Pupils may access the use of a phone via their Form Teacher, Head of Progress, or the School Office. The staff will continue to contact parents/ carers directly in the event of an emergency or sickness.

These measures have been implemented to safeguard the welfare of pupils and to enable staff and pupils to focus on learning, rather than staff having to spend an excessive amount of time following up on a range of pastoral matters linked to the inappropriate use of mobile phones, or other devices, during the school day.

Ashfield Girls' High School is not responsible for mobile phones, or other devices, that are brought into the school building and we will not investigate the loss, damage or theft of these devices.







Date of ratification at Board of Governors	Date of last review	Signature Chair/Vice Chair	Signature Principal

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