

**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**



RainhillSixth

POST 16 MOBILE PHONE POLICY



RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL



2022-25
BRONZE
SCHOOL
MENTAL
HEALTH
AWARD



DUAL CAREER
ACCREDITED
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BCS
Centre of
Excellence



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

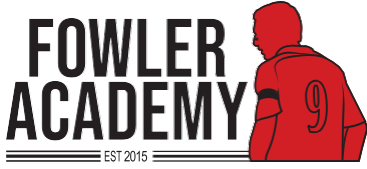


St Helens
Chamber



STEPHENSON





**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**



RainhillSixth

POST 16 MOBILE PHONE POLICY

STATUS	NON-STATUTORY
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD
APPROVAL DATE	14/07/2023
RENEWAL DATE	14/07/2024



SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP
STEPHENSON
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Policy

This policy outlines the appropriate use of mobile phones on our college site.

Purpose

- At RH6 & FEFA we recognize that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our students, parents, and staff.
- This Acceptable Use Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile phones can be clearly identified and addressed, ensuring the benefits that mobile phones provide (such as increased safety) can continue to be enjoyed by our students.
- RH6 & FEFA has established the following Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones that provides teachers, students, parents and carers guidelines and instructions for the appropriate use of mobile phones during college hours.
- Students, their parents or carers must read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile phones to college.
- The Acceptable Use Policy for mobile phones also applies to students during college excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities both on the college premises and off-site.

Rationale

The staff at RH6 & FEFA recognize that many students and their families own a mobile phone. We also recognize that some parents/guardians request that their child brings a mobile phone to college for safety and security reasons on the way to and from college.

The college recognizes that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life but that such technologies need to be used well.

Our core business of teaching and learning needs to be conducted in an environment free from unnecessary distractions or disruptions. Therefore, the college prohibit the use of phones during lessons. R H 6 & FEFA are prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of the policy as stated below.

Aims

To inform all members of our college community about the appropriate use of mobile phones at our college and to outline the procedures and processes of this policy.

Personal safety and security

RH6 / FEFA accepts that parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to college. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile phone gives parents reassurance that they can contact their child if they need to speak to them urgently.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile phones to college to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

Parents/carers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to college, it is assumed household insurance will provide the required cover in the event of loss or damage. The college

cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs incurred due to its use.

Parents/carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the college office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any relevant way. The Colleges can be reached on the following numbers –

RH6 – 01744 677205

FEFA - 0151 458 7373

Guidelines

Staff

Except in urgent or exceptional situations, mobile phone use is not permitted during teaching time, while on duty or when in the presence of students. Mobile phones can be used to notify other staff of disruptions or incidences in class which need the support of other members of staff.

In accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy staff should not use personal devices for photography in college. Only College cameras or devices are to be used.

Students

Students remain responsible for all their personal effects whilst at college. When students enter the college grounds the college takes no responsibility for mobile phones. Mobile phones are brought to college entirely at the owner's risk. The college accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones.

There are no reasons why a student needs to use a mobile phone during lesson times unless explicitly asked to do so by a member of staff. Mobile phones **must not be visible or heard during lessons**.

Parents

For safeguarding reasons parents are advised not to use camera phones to take images on the college grounds. Parents should not place images of other students taken at college on social media sites without permission from the parents involved.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the college office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Unacceptable Uses

The following are examples of unacceptable use of mobile phones at RH6 & FEFA –

- Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos or use any other application during lesson times.
- Using mobile phones to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour. If the use of technology humiliates, embarrasses or causes offence it is unacceptable regardless of whether 'consent' was given.

- It is forbidden for students to “gang up” on another student and use their mobile phones to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate and humiliate that student and then send the pictures to other students or upload it to a website for public viewing. It is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person and almost all calls, text messages and emails can be traced.
- Mobile phones are not to be used or taken into changing rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff or visitors to the college.
- Should a student be seen with a mobile phone on during lesson time, they will be warned initially to switch it off and put it in their bag. If a student is found with the phone out again then the teacher will confiscate the phone until the end of the lesson.
- It is unacceptable to take a picture or video of a member of staff or other students without their permission. If this happens the student will be asked and expected to delete those images.

Theft or Damage

RH6 & FEFA accept no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen, or damaged mobile phones.

RH6 & FEFA accept no responsibility for students who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from college.

It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorized phone calls cannot be made on their phones. Students must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords may not be shared.

It is unacceptable to touch or use another student’s phone without their permission.

Sanctions

Students who are seen with a mobile phone on during lesson time, will be warned initially to switch it off and put it in their bag. If a student is found with the phone out again then the teacher will confiscate the phone until the end of the lesson (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from students under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006). That student will be disciplined in line with our behaviour and intervention system. If a student refuses to hand over their phone, they will be asked to leave the lesson and report to the college office. The student will then be disciplined in line with our behaviour and intervention system.

On the second infringement of this policy the student will move on to the next stage of the behaviour and intervention system. This will involve parental involvement, FEFA Principal & RH6 Director involvement and ultimately exclusion, should infringements continue to happen.

RH6 & FEFA have the right to take action if a student is involved in incidents of inappropriate behaviour, that are covered in this agreement, when a student is out of college and where they involve membership of the college community (examples would be cyber-bullying, use of images or personal information).

Inappropriate conduct

Mobile phones are banned from all examinations. Students MUST hand phones to invigilators before entering the exam hall. The examination boards have a zero-tolerance policy if students are found in possession of mobile phones in the examination hall. The college will notify the examination board if any student is found in possession of a mobile phone during an examination.

Students must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading, racist or pornographic images. The transmission of such images is a criminal offence.

Similarly, 'sexting' – which is the sending of personal sexual imagery - is also a criminal offence

Related Technology

The procedures applying to the inappropriate use and security of mobile phones, apply equally to the inappropriate use of portable computer games, iPods, tablets and similar devices.

Disclaimer

Students are not required to have a mobile phone and we support parents who make the decision that this is not necessary by ensuring that students are able to use the college landlines to contact parents in an emergency. Parents can, of course, contact college via the landline. This policy does, however, recognize that the majority of our students own a mobile phone. Any student who brings a mobile phone into college does so at their own risk and college will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.