



HUDDERSFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# **Huddersfield Grammar School**

## **SAFEGUARDING: USE OF MOBILE DEVICES AND CAMERAS POLICY**

**Includes all mobile communication devices – phones, iPods, iPads etc...**

**September 2017**

This policy should be read in conjunction with our policy "Acceptable use of ICT for all users", and the associated agreement which is signed by all parents and pupils throughout the school.

**THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL PUPILS UP TO AND INCLUDING YEAR 11 ONLY.**

**AS MOST DEVICES ARE MULTI-PURPOSE, THIS POLICY APPLIES NOT ONLY TO MOBILE PHONES, BUT ALSO TO ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE CAPABLE OF CAPTURING, RECORDING, RECEIVING OR SENDING DATA.**

#### **Rationale**

The implementation of our Mobile Devices Policy will not cause any problems for the vast majority of Quinton House School pupils who use their mobile devices sensibly.

Generally, problems with mobile devices fall into three categories – text, speech and images. "Texting" enables pupils to 'talk' from any distance, from anywhere and at any time and gives them an outlet for personal and interpersonal interactions that may create or add to a range of problems which can have a negative impact on individuals. Extreme examples include 'cyber bullying'.

Camera and video phones combined with wireless technology enable pupils to make still images or videos of themselves or others and 'send' them to other phones or post them on the internet. Sometimes these can be candid images that have been taken without the consent or even knowledge of the person(s) involved. Occasionally, it can be with malicious intent.

Pupils with 'wireless' or blue tooth devices also can have unrestricted access to the internet and are able to download data from other similar devices. Many internet sites aim their content (text, music, images and videos) at young people who can download or upload files and then share them by sending them to other mobile devices. On some sites acceptable material, such as songs, cartoons or 'amusing' videos, are presented alongside unacceptable material putting young people at risk.

At the extreme end there are a number of aspects of law that may apply to the misuse of mobile phones and other digital devices. In the most serious cases there may be a crime involved – for example, an incident being filmed might be an assault or breach of the peace. The misuse of phones might be an offence under the Communications Act 2003, if it involves a message that is grossly offensive or is of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

These technological developments combined with the ever-changing world that our young people are growing up in present new and unprecedented challenges for schools.

**Our Mobile Devices Policy aims to deal with these problems in school by banning the use of mobile devices during the school day. In particular, pupils are not allowed to use them at all on the school site at any time, for any purpose. If they are brought into school they must be handed into the school office.**

## **Purpose**

The inappropriate use of mobile devices in school or during school supervised activities can be damaging to the aims of our school community and the well-being of members of that community. We also wish to reduce the opportunities for theft within school.

## **Guidelines**

- i. We accept that some pupils and parents see possession of mobile devices as an aid to personal security and safety and consequently, where a pupil does bring a mobile device to school the device must be handed into the school office. If contact with parents needs to be made by the pupil then the School Office phone can be used under the supervision of a member of staff.
- ii. The school will not accept liability for the safe keeping of a mobile device which will remain the responsibility of the pupil at all times. Only in exceptional circumstances (usually involving other breaches of our code of conduct) would the school investigate the theft or loss of a mobile device.
- iii. Use of a mobile device will lead to the application of proportionate sanctions, including temporary confiscation. All breaches of good conduct are considered on an individual basis taking into account the nature of the offence, its context and the prior behaviour history of the pupil concerned. The Headteacher or other member of the Senior Leadership Team will retain discretion in the application of sanctions depending on the nature of the individual situation considered. The procedures below outline responses to many common situations that may arise.

## **Photography, videos and other images:**

Please note that there is separate policy: Safeguarding – Photographic Images and Filming Policy.

Please note that there are Codes of Conduct and Acceptable Use Policies for ICT for all pupils and staff.

**September 2016**