



Cabot
Learning
Federation



Mobile phones and electrical devices Policy

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1) Introduction

At Bristol Met we have previously relied on self-regulation and an in-class ban for mobile phones and electrical devices. However, increasingly we are seeing difficulties for our young people to manage the “always on” environment created by mobile devices, particularly with access to social media and associated platforms. A large amount of current research, supported by social and emotional wellbeing charities, Ofsted and the Government, all support the idea of restriction of mobile phones within schools. Whilst we recognise the important part that schools play in educating young people about self-regulation we feel the time has come to introduce a more enforced restriction on mobile devices at Bristol Met.

2) Mobile Phones, Electrical Devices and Headphones at Bristol Met

- Students are allowed to bring a phone to the Academy if they need it to ensure their personal safety to and from the Academy.
- Phones and electrical devices are to be off and kept in the bottom of bags or in lockers when in the Academy (complete site ban at all times including social times).
- Phones and electrical devices (including head/earphones) will not be used, seen or heard at any time whilst on the Academy site (including before school starts, lessons, break, lunch or after school finishes).

3) Confiscation

- Phones or electrical devices (including head/earphones) will be confiscated if seen or heard and placed in a labelled bag and secured in a safe or locked cabinet.
- Upon confiscation, parents / carers will be informed by telephone call or text message sent.
- Phones or electrical devices that are confiscated will need to be collected by a **parent/carers** from a member of the Senior Leadership Team or House Team at the end of the Academy day.
- Refusal to hand over phones or electrical devices when seen or heard will be a breach of the Learning Ready Behaviour Policy.

4) Important messages and Emergencies

- Important messages for students from parents/carers can be communicated by telephoning Reception during the day.
- Where students need to *urgently* contact home they can go to their House Teams or Student Reception to do so.

5) Safeguarding and misuse of mobile phones

Parents / carers and students should be clear that misuse of mobile phones will not be tolerated.

Examples of misuse include and are not limited to:

- Situations where people are filmed or photographed in order to humiliate, embarrass or intimidate by publishing to a wider audience such as on Facebook, YouTube or social media platforms
- Abusive calls, bullying by text, image and email messaging
- The use of a mobile phone for ‘sexting’ (the deliberate taking and sending of provocative images or text messages)

- Students posting material on social network sites with no thought to the risks to their personal reputation and sometimes with the deliberate intention of causing harm to others.
- Making disrespectful comments, misrepresenting events or making defamatory remarks about teachers or other students

Where there is cause for concern staff will search students' phones, as set out in the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The Academy takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

6) Responsibility for mobile phones

Bristol Met accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones or other digital equipment in the possession of students.

Confiscated mobile phones and electrical devices will be stored away in a safe place and a record kept of the condition when confiscated. Confiscated devices will be returned to parents / carers in the condition in which it was confiscated.