



# LAWN MANOR

## ACADEMY

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

(Updated May 2018)

#### **Context**

Lawn Manor Academy recognises the value of a child carrying a mobile phone and the majority of pupils bring their mobile phones into the school; it has become fashionable and the norm for pupils to own mobile phones.

The Academy's policy on mobile phones is outlined below, and if pupils choose to bring in a phone, they do so in accordance with this policy.

Pupils who use a mobile during I LEARN or lesson time, will have it confiscated by a member of staff; if this is a persistent offence then parents/carers will be asked to collect it from main reception. If the phone is switched on, seen out, or an alert disturbs assembly, I LEARN or lesson time during the academic day, then pupil is also at fault and they will be issued with a C3 Safety Net and subsequently a C4 School Detention.

Persistent use of a mobile phone or refusal to hand over the phone to a member of staff, will result in the pupil being issued with the consequence of a period of time in the Lawn Manor Internal Exclusion Room (IER) or even a period of Fixed Term Exclusion. The phone must be switched off during the timetabled day or be on 'silent'.

Lawn Manor Academy wishes to alert pupils and parents/carers to the risks from bringing their mobile phones to the Academy. These items are expensive and cause anxiety should they be lost or stolen. This policy underlines that Lawn Manor Academy takes no responsibility whatsoever for the loss or damage to mobile phones however caused. Parents who wish their child to carry a mobile phone in school automatically accept that Lawn Manor Academy accepts no liability for the security of the phone.

The technology of mobile phones has developed such that they now have the facility to record sound, take photographs and video images. This new technology is open to abuse leading to the invasion of privacy. Taking of such images, without permission, contravenes the Data Protection Act of 1998. There are also concerns over the long term health impact of regular mobile phone use.

We recognise that a significant number of working parents/carers feel that there are pressing reasons for their child to have the ability to contact them by mobile phone at the end of the academic day and that this need overrides the risk of losing the phone. It is felt that a phone left switched off, or on 'silent', at the bottom of the pupil's school bag poses no risk to the child or the work of the school.

Mobile phones in the Academy pose considerable problems over and above the risk of loss described above. Ring tones can disturb lessons, text messages can be used to distract or upset other pupils and cameras can be misused to take pictures or audio of pupils which embarrass or humiliate. Bullying by phone and the exchange of stored videos of explicit violence and offensive images are becoming a disturbing feature of a minority of pupil's behaviour across the country. Social networking sites such as Facebook can also be accessed via mobile phones. These too are examples of how some pupils can offend or bully others; there is also a risk of pupils being exposed to materials via their phone that most caring parents/carers would be shocked to know about. Parents / Carers are reminded that pupils' mobile devices are not linked to the

school's wifi network and firewall and as a result of this there is no limit on which sites or contents the pupils can access. Parents/carers are taking responsibility for this. These phones are often password protected and inaccessible to parents who remain blissfully unaware of how their child's phone is being used.

The public examination boards (GCSE/BTEC) take a zero-tolerance approach towards the use of mobile phones in or near an examination venue. A phone going off in an examination causes a major disturbance to the concentration of other candidates and is regarded as a serious case of malpractice, resulting in the potential disqualification of the candidate/s responsible.

**At Lawn Manor Academy pupils are not allowed to ring or text their parents from their mobile phones.** In case of an emergency, a pupil can always ask to use a telephone at Student Services.

If a pupil needs to phone a parent/carer then they must go to the Student Services and explain the reason why they need to make contact; if the reason is deemed necessary, then a phone will be made available. We have examples where parents are rung by pupils and then parents/carers have phoned the school demanding to know why their child has been reprimanded by a teacher and in some extreme cases parents/carers have come onto the school site without permission and demanded a meeting due to pupil contacting their parents/carers via their mobile phone. This is deemed as unacceptable by the school and subsequent consequences will be taken.

A confiscated mobile phone will be locked in a teacher's classroom or office until it is able to be taken to Student Services, from where it can be collected at the end of the day, however if this is a persistent offence then the mobile phone will need to be collected by the pupil's parent/carer at a mutually convenient time from the main office. Examination boards may impose their own, much harsher, penalties.

Pupils who use their phone to bully or humiliate other pupils or who are discovered to have brought offensive images or violent material into the Academy **will face a consequence ranging from a period of time in the IER, a period of Fixed Term Exclusion, or even Permanent Exclusion.** It is also possible that the individual pupil or teacher may wish to exercise their human right and take legal action which would initially engage outside agencies including the police.

Lawn Manor Academy recognises that there is an increasing place for modern technology to be used to support learning in the classroom; there may be some exceptional circumstances where a member of staff allows a pupil to use their mobile device in a lesson to support learning. In these circumstances, the member of staff must make it clear that permission has been granted before any such use of the device.

The Mobile Phone policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies:

- E-safety
- Safeguarding and Child protection
- Anti-bullying
- Public Examination, Invigilation and Assessment Policy
- Behaviour for Learning
- Positive handling

Policy Updated Date: April 2018

Person responsible: Deputy Headteacher

SLT Approved:

Due for Review: April 2021 (3 years)