



BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A remarkable Grammar School

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

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For review by: E&O/FGB

Beaconsfield High School

MOBILE PHONE POLICY



Introduction

Beaconsfield High School recognises that communication through personal digital devices is part of everyday life for most families. We recognise that parents/ carers in our community feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone on their way to and from school for safety and organisational purposes. However, there is growing evidence that excessive and constant use of mobile phones is having an impact on children's mental health, their ability to confidently socialise and even perhaps a negative effect on their attainment. With this in mind, **Beaconsfield High School does not allow students to use their mobile phones within school hours.**

Students are allowed to bring their mobile phone to the school site, but **the device must be switched off and not seen or heard during the school day.** Our 'gate-to-gate' policy is clear; phones are switched off and must remain out of sight on entry to school. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone onsite for any purpose. Earphones are also to be stored in bags for the duration of the school day and smart watches should not be used for communicating. Students will be directed by teachers if their earphones are recommended for use in lessons with the school PC's or the students' personal digital device (BYOD).

To avoid confusion, we cannot accept a child's mobile phone as their personal digital device (BYOD). Please see the BYOD Policy for guidance on the device specifications required.

Policy Basics

1. Students are allowed to carry mobile phones to and from school to ensure their personal safety.
2. **The use of mobile phones onsite during the school day is strictly forbidden.** See appendix A and B for Sixth Form and Learning Support.
3. Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight at all times during the school day. It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that they do not use or handle their mobile phone whilst onsite 'gate-to-gate'. 'Gate-to-gate' in this respect means once the students enter through the blue security gates.
4. **BHS operates a "see it, hear it, log it" policy.** If a mobile phone is seen or heard during the school day the student's name will be noted and behaviour points logged according to the Behaviour for Learning Policy. The term 'school day' in this context means from the time the student enters the blue school security gate until they leave at the end of the school day. This is summarised by the phrase 'gate-to-gate'.
5. Under no circumstances should a mobile phone or any BYOD belonging to a student be used for photographing or filming students or staff without their express permission. Where these rules are broken, further sanctions will apply in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.
6. The use of BYOD digital devices used for learning is covered by a separate Digital Agreement/ BYOD Agreement.

Sanctions

1. Any teacher or member of support staff who sees or hears a mobile phone will ask the student for their name. Their name will be logged on a staff form, and behaviour points (5) will be logged on Sims. The Behaviour for Learning policy details sanctions that apply for logged behaviour points eg. 10 behaviour points in one-week results in a lunchtime detention, 20 behaviour points in one-week results in an after-school detention.
2. If the student refuses to give their name behaviour points (20) will be logged and trigger an immediate after-school detention for “refusal to do as asked by a member of staff” (see BHS consequences chart). The member of staff will ask to see their diary or named exercise book from their bag. Their name will be logged on a staff form, and further behaviour points (5) will be logged on Sims for mobile phone misuse. The result will be 25 logged behaviour points, 20 points for refusal to follow instruction and 5 points for having their phone visible or their phone heard.
3. If a student receives 10 behaviour points in one week for mobile phone misuse, ie. two instances logged in one week, then the student will be required to hand their phone in at the start of the school day to Reception, where it will be kept secure and can be collected at the end of the school day; this is to help the student build better habits. Parents will be notified by email. The student will be expected to comply with the sanction for a period of one week/ 5 whole school days.
4. Persistent misuse of a mobile phone during the school day (20 mobile phone specific behaviour points in one half term) will result in the requirement to deposit the phone for the duration of the day for a period of 3 weeks or 15 school days and parents will be contacted. The parent may choose to keep the phone at home.
5. Ongoing persistent flouting of school rules will result in a parental meeting. In this context ‘ongoing’ is viewed 30 mobile phone specific behaviour points in one half term period.

Summary

- 10 behaviour points (any variety) in one week = lunchtime detention
- 20 behaviour points (any variety) in one week = after-school detention
- 10 mobile phone specific behaviour points in one week = deposit of mobile phone during the school day for 5 school days/ parental email sent
- 20 mobile phone specific points in one half term = deposit of mobile phone during the school day for 15 school days
- 30 mobile phone specific points in one half term = parental meeting and personalised sanction

Exemptions

There will be certain exemptions to these rules. Students with medical diagnoses that require access to mobile device apps will be exempt and be issued with an exemption card. There will be exemptions to the rules on certain trips and visits eg. School ski trip for logistical and safety purposes. Leaders of trips and visits will communicate exemptions. Other specific exemptions may occur on ‘special curriculum days’ at school for example Year 9 STEAM Day where use of mobiles is required for learning. Students will be told about the exemptions and expected to follow the exemption rules for a set duration and use outside of the permitted use will have sanctions applied.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I need to contact my child during the school day?

Any parent/ carer needing to contact their child during the school day should ring school reception and staff will deal sensitively with the matter arising. Communication between child and parent should be rare and used in emergencies.

What if my child needs to contact me during the school day?

Any student needing to contact their parent/ carer should go to Pastoral Hub or Reception and ask permission to use the school phone. Communication between child and parent during the school day should be rare and used in emergencies.

What if my child has an after-school club or fixture?

Staff in charge of the club or fixture will give permission for your child to contact you should they need to send a message or call you.

Why is the school changing its' policy on mobile phones? Beaconsfield High School wants children to be confident young people who can socialise with friends and take advantage of the many opportunities offered during the school day. We don't want them distracted or intimidated by online activities. We want them to have periods of their day where they disconnect from the online world and interact with peers in the real world. There is a growing body of research that suggests that unfettered access to mobile phones 24/7 has negative effects on children's mental health and self-esteem and can even adversely affect their attainment. Our pastoral leaders have noticed an increased incidence of mobile phone related issues in school time and groups of students sitting glued to their phones rather than socialising face-to-face.

[The negative impact of mobile phones global research](#)

[Reasons to put your phone away](#)

[Don't be a slave to your phone](#)

[Consequences of electronics in class](#)

[Centre for Economic Performance](#)

[Educational Psychology](#)

[The impact of mobile phones on grades](#)

[Teenagers, Stress and Mobile Phones](#)

[Science Daily](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[What is lost when we are plugged in?](#)

How will my child learn to self-regulate if you don't help them?

Whilst we do lots to educate your child on the dangers of online activity and the benefits of putting your mobile phone away, teenagers want to be on their phones more than is good for them. We feel strongly that a blanket ban is the best way to give our teenagers a digital detox during school hours. As parents/carers you then have the ability and means to set your own controls and to have your own conversations with your child about their use of mobile phones.

Appendix A

Sixth form students will be allowed to use their mobile phone ONLY within the SFSA and 6HUB doors. The use of mobile phones is not permitted anywhere else in the school, this includes the cafeteria, and sanctions will be given as per the school policy.

Appendix B

Sixth form students in learning support will be allowed to use their mobile phones in the Learning Support Sixth Form Collaborative Working Area in line with the Appendix A.