

Mobile Phone Policy

St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

Policy Statement on Acceptable Use of Mobile Devices

Acceptable Use of Mobile Devices

Rationale

A number of well documented incidents have highlighted the potential for mobile devices to be misused to bully, intimidate and harass individuals. In schools this misconduct may take the form of

- threatening, lewd and/or other inappropriate text messages sent to an individual(s)
- images and/or video footage intended to intimidate, harass and/or embarrass an individual(s)
- interruption to learning and teaching

This misconduct may be directed at other students or members of staff.

When mobile devices are used for such malicious purposes it represents a serious breach of privacy and personal liberty and can impact upon an individual's health and well-being.

For the above reasons St Thomas Aquinas RC Secondary School, in keeping with Glasgow City Council procedures, provides very explicit guidelines for students, parents and staff on the use of mobile devices.

Agreed Acceptable Use of Mobile Devices in St Thomas Aquinas

Mobile devices are an all-pervasive part of everyday life and for many young people, an essential accessory.

The mobile phone in particular has, for parents, become a vital safety link with their children.

St Thomas Aquinas RC Secondary recognises these features and has prepared a management policy for the acceptable use of mobile devices in order that students can access mobile phones for valid communications, whilst ensuring that the potential for abuse is limited.

- Students may bring mobile devices to school on the clear understanding that the school cannot accept any liability for those lost or stolen.
- Students are totally responsible for the security of their own mobile devices
- Mobile devices must not be used in classrooms, corridors and stairwells during the school day. (Please see Exception 1 for further details)
- Use of mobile devices is permitted before school begins, at morning interval and lunchtimes.
- Students are advised not to borrow or lend mobile devices.
- No video or picture should be taken without the consent of the individual whose image is to be captured.

***Exception 1**

A teacher may take the professional view that a mobile device may be permitted to aid a particular aspect of learning and teaching. In this instance student usage will be permitted under the explicit direction of the teacher.

Misuse of Mobile Devices

In the event of any students breaching the rules the following action will result:

- The teacher will take a decision as to whether to use his/her authority to confiscate the mobile device.
- The confiscated device remains the responsibility of the teacher who has taken it until it is taken to the school office.
- The mobile device will be logged into the office as 'confiscated property' as soon as is possible.
- The mobile device must be signed out from the office by the student from whom it was confiscated.
- Confiscation can still be applied even if the mobile device does not belong to the person misusing it.

Repeated misuse and/or subsequent confiscation of a mobile device may require parental attendance at school to recover the device from the office.

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Please complete this tear-off slip and ask your child to return it to the School Office. Please retain the policy for your information.

Name of Student:

Class:

I have read and accept the above policy relating to the use of mobile devices within St Thomas Aquinas.

I have discussed this with my child and can confirm they are aware of the rules surrounding mobile device usage.

Name of Parent/Carer:

Signature:

Date: _____