Dumfries Academy – Mobile Device Policy

Pilot until January 2025

Rationale

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent and fair approach to the use of mobile devices at Dumfries Academy, in alignment with our school's core values: Compassion, Fairness, Respect, Ambition, and Responsibility. Additionally, this policy is guided by principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), ensuring that the rights and well-being of both staff and students are upheld.

1.2 The school recognises that personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life. However, mobile devices are causing interruptions to learning and teaching, and the use of social media can often be a source of conflict which can have a negative effect on the health and well-being of learners.

1.3 The widespread ownership of mobile devices among young people requires that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and carers take steps to ensure that mobile devices are used responsibly at school.

Policy Guidelines

2.1 Mobile devices must be switched off and kept out of sight during classroom lessons, including Tutor time, and while moving between lessons. **(ALL)**

2.2 Students may use their mobile devices in the classroom for educational purposes when express permission has been given by the teacher. **(S3+-6)**

2.3 If mobile devices ARE permitted during the lesson, a GREEN mobile device icon will be clearly displayed on promethean boards. A RED mobile device icon will be displayed if devices are not permitted. **(S3+-6)**

2.4 Teacher autonomy is important and classrooms reserve the right to make the learning environment a mobile device free zone. If this is the case, signage will be displayed. **(S3+-6)**

2.5 Listening to music on mobile devices is not an acceptable educational purpose. Air pods/earphones must be removed when instructed by teachers or learning assistants. **(ALL)**

2.6 Students must keep mobile devices switched off and out of sight when in the library and ICT rooms. **(ALL)**

2.7 Mobile devices are permitted in social areas at interval and lunch. **(ALL)**

2.8 Teachers will endeavor to support students without mobile devices by providing alternative ICT devices and setting alternate tasks. **(S+3-6)**

2.9 Mobile devices are not permitted for use when students are internally excluded. In this event, devices will be held securely in the Pupil Support Base. **(ALL)**

Sanctions

3.1 Students who are on mobile devices in mobile-free classrooms or are in violation of the policy when the RED mobile device icon is displayed will have devices confiscated and returned at the end of the lesson. One warning permitted, then action will be taken. **(ALL)**

3.2 Students who refuse to cooperate will be referred by the class teacher to the Head of Faculty. The Head of Faculty will confiscate the mobile device at their earliest convenience and take to a secure place within the school office. The student will be able to collect the mobile device at the end of the school day and a record will be made of the incident. A groupcall will also be sent to the parent/carer to inform them of the incident. **(ALL)**

3.3 Mobile device violations will be monitored via Satchel One and reviewed at the beginning of each month.

3.4 On the third infringement where the mobile device has been confiscated by the Head of Faculty and taken to the school office in the same term, students will receive a one week ban from using mobile devices in school. In this event, mobile devices will be handed in to school office before 08.51 and collected at 3.15. Parents/carers will be contacted by the school to communicate this. **(ALL)**

3.5 Students using mobile devices in corridors must put them away on instruction and immediately,. **(ALL)**

3.6 Serious incidents involving mobile devices that compromise the safety and well-being of students and staff will be immediately escalated to Senior Management, where the appropriate Depute Rector or Headteacher will take action. **(ALL)**