

Bluecoat Wollaton Academy

Mobile Phone/ Electronic Device Statement of Practice

For the purpose of this document, the word “devices” will include: laptops, netbooks, mobile phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, head / earphones, watches with phones and/or the internet and any other electronic/mobile device that can be used for communication. This policy should be read alongside other relevant Academy Policies, including our Safeguarding, Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Bluecoat Academy recognises the benefits and opportunities which new technologies offer to teaching and learning. We provide internet access to all of our students and encourage the use of technologies in order to enhance skills, promote achievement and enable lifelong learning. We also appreciate the safety benefits for families in allowing their child to have a mobile phone when travelling to and from the academy and we feel this should continue. However, we have become increasingly concerned that the array of new technologies incorporated more recently into mobile phones, presents a temptation which can not only inhibit learning within the classroom but also contravenes our IT user agreement, with respect to student access to social networking sites whilst in school and our wider safeguarding duties as a result. Their inappropriate use can make students and staff vulnerable and, as such, we insist upon the following:

1. Our expectation at the Academy is that students can carry their mobile phone with them to and from the academy, however, it should be turned off and put away before entering the academy premise.
2. Under no circumstances must a device be used or on view whilst on the academy premises. Any student found with their phone/device out and/or switched on whilst on academy premises will have this confiscated immediately by the member of staff and returned when communication has been made with the student’s parent/carer and collection arranged which is at a time of our convenience.
3. Students should not have ear/headphones on view as there is no need due to the above.
4. The above will also results in a “negative point” and an immediate after school detention as part of our Zero Tolerance procedures.
5. Students found using a device in an inappropriate way, for example to bully another student, will face additional punishment.
6. The teacher has the discretion to allow students to use a personal device in the classroom for a specific project, to help with their learning, however, once this is complete the device must be turned off and put away again. Cases of this are likely to be rare; such cases will not extend to include students listening to music.
7. Devices found being used in the academy can also be subject to a search by our staff (whether any offence took place in school or outside of it) to protect students and staff. Where we find these have been used inappropriately we will inform parents and, if part of illegal practice, we will inform the police.
8. Even if not physically seen, the academy also reserves the right to search for and remove devices if they suspect that they are being used or that they are making the student / other students / adults vulnerable in some way.
9. Should a student need to make contact with their parent/carer then our Year Leaders/ Office staff will be happy to support with this should it be deemed necessary, though that decision rests with the Year Leader or SLT member.

The academy will take no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of a device- these are brought at the student’s/parents’ discretion.