

Mobile Phone/Electronic Device Statement of Practice



Bluecoat Wollaton

believe in yourself, in others, in God

Our Christian Vision is:

Through believing in ourselves, in others, in God, we trust that our hard work will result in the transformation of our lives and the lives of those around us.

Our Christian Values are:

Faith, Hope and Love

Our Bluecoat Family is:

*Inclusive
Committed to Staff
Highly Literate
Grounded in Faith
Knowledgeable
Rooted in Respect
Dedicated to Character
Development*

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| Document Owner | Assistant Principal |
| Date Reviewed | September 2022 |
| Last Approved by LGB | September 2019 |

Introduction

Bluecoat Wollaton 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.

Related Policies, Statements of Practice and procedures

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- IT User Agreement

Statement of Practice

As a **faith** school, our intent is for pupils at Bluecoat Wollaton Academy to feel safe in an **inclusive** environment **rooted in respect**. To this end we believe that our **committed** and dedicated staff will be best served delivering **knowledge** without interference from technology unless they specifically wish to use it. Furthermore we **believe** a school day that focuses on learning allows pupils to **develop their character** away from the influence of social media and some of its harmful impacts.

For the purpose of this document, the word “devices” will include: laptops, netbooks, mobile phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, head / earphones, smart watches, watches with phones and/or the internet and any other electronic/mobile device that can be used for communication.

Their inappropriate use can make pupils and staff vulnerable and because we are committed to staff and dedicated to the development of pupils’ character, we insist upon the following:

- 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 in their bag **before** entering the school grounds.
- Students should not have ear/headphones on view as there is no need due to the above.
- Under no circumstances must a device be used or on view whilst on the academy premises. This includes during break, lunch or leaving the academy after a day of lessons. 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. The device will be handed in to student reception and it will be locked it away. The admin team or Year Leader will contact parents/carers and arrange a convenient time for the device to be picked up. Please note, the device will not be handed back to the student. This will result in a ‘negative point’ and a 1 hour after school detention and parents/carers will be contacted.

- If a student refuses to hand in their device to the member of staff when asked, this will result in the member of staff following our behaviour policy and going through the warning system. If after two warnings, the student still refuses to hand in their device, this will result in further sanctions additional to the instant negative for the device alone. Parents/carers will be contacted to inform of the matter and escalation.
- Students found using a device in an inappropriate way, for example to bully another student, will face additional sanctions.
- Within the classroom, the teacher has the discretion to allow students to use a personal device for a specific project or 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 or accessing social media sites.
- During practical Sports Science lessons, students should hand in any valuables to staff members for safe keeping.
- 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 school) 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Bluecoat Wollaton Academy accepts no financial responsibility if a student mobile phone or any other electronic device is lost, damaged or stolen. While we will do our best to find any items, it is the responsibility of your child to keep personal items safe.