

GOSFORTH FEDERATED ACADEMIES



MOBILE PHONE USE & OTHER PORTABLE TECHNOLOGY (ADDENDUM)

MOBILE PHONE USE & PORTABLE TECHNOLOGY – ADDENDUM

Most students use their mobile phones responsibly and many parents consider them to be an important tool to aid their son/daughter's safety when travelling to and from school and within the local community.

Additionally, mobile technologies can be a great way to enhance learning. It is rare that this would be the case in a school setting. Mobile technology would only be allowed to be used under the strict supervision of the class teacher.

As a general rule students are not allowed to use their mobile phones or other mobile technology such as a smart watch or tablet in lessons and while moving around school. We ask that all mobile technology is kept switched off and in a student's bag whilst they are in the building. Phones and other mobile technology must not be brought to external examinations under any circumstances.

For a minority of students, however, there are significant concerns over their safety, security and well-being either as victims or perpetrators of mobile technology misuse.

Students and their parents need to know:

- the age of criminal responsibility is 10yrs;
- it is a crime to:
 - harass or bully via a text; call or any social media platform
 - take, receive and keep or show indecent photos of children;
 - film others without permission; this is most prevalent in aggressive or violent situations
- taking a photograph without consent is an invasion of privacy and may be distressing to others;
- **students should not post photographs of others on any social media platform without first gaining their permission;**
- once photos are sent to a website, they can become impossible to track or delete;
- identifying clues in a photo could lead to risk of contact from strangers; and
- mobile and web-blogging can be dangerous if personal information is uploaded.

Location tracking services e.g. can mean that it is possible for a stranger to pinpoint the exact location of a child's mobile whilst in use – and therefore the child.

To use mobile phones safely students need to:

- respect their own and others' privacy;
- protect their identity and whereabouts;
- use their phones responsibly;
- agree with friends never to share each other's personal details without permission;
- always report inappropriate, distressing and scary contact; and
- have an understanding of mobile phone and message misuse.

If staff become aware of any misuse of mobile phones, they need to:

- confiscate the phone and take it to the student reception for safe keeping and do not allow students to remove the SIM card;
- report the incident to the relevant pastoral staff (Head of Year, Year Manager) who will inform parents/carers;
- not delete or allow the student to delete any inappropriate texts, messages or images;
- help and support students involved; and
- consult with the school's safeguarding officer about dealing with the matter through the school's own anti-bullying procedures.

Date approved:	September 2019
Signed:
Date to be reviewed:	September 2020