



ST IVO SCHOOL

POLICY ON USE OF MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

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Reviewed by **Personnel committee**
Ratified by

Review date **October 2011**

Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones in School

St Ivo School recognises that parents may wish their children to have mobile phones for use in cases of emergency. However, mobiles can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. The Governing Body has, therefore, adopted the following policy which will be rigorously enforced.

- Mobile phones should not be generally used on school premises and students should keep them switched off and out of sight.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, students should seek staff permission to use their phone.
- Students who ignore this policy and use a mobile on school premises without permission will be required to hand over their phone to a member of staff. On the first occasion, the phone will be placed in the school safe and collected at the end of the school day. On subsequent occasions, parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.
- If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, students will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offence the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation¹. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.
- Students are strongly discouraged from bringing camera phones into school because of their higher value.
- Students remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses.
- Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in normal disciplinary action to be taken up to and including the consideration of permanent exclusion of the student concerned.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying and inappropriate contact, including grooming by unsuitable persons.

¹ There has been a recent court case where a person has received a custodial sentence for showing someone a video on a mobile phone, which caused them distress. Parents and students should be aware that such incidents are likely to be treated seriously by the courts.