The Kimberley School

Policy in Relation to Mobile Phones, Personal Music Players and Games Devices In Yrs 7 - 11

This policy applies to school years 7 to 11 at The Kimberley School. Sixth Form students are free to bring their phones in but they must be used discreetly, rather than in plain sight of younger students.

The Kimberley 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 and -school sees no reason for students to bring other electronic music or games devices to school. The Governing Body has, therefore, adopted the following policy which will be rigorously enforced.

- Mobile phones and other electronic music or games devices should not be used on school premises by students in school hours or during on-site extra curricular activities, and students should keep them switched off and out of sight. Students know that mobile phones are not to be used whilst at school. -.

- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, students should seek staff permission to use their phone. However, parents and carers are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in the appropriate way.

- Students who ignore this policy and use a mobile or other unauthorised device on school premises will be required to give their phone/device to a member of staff and students will be asked to collect it subsequently from the school House Base. If the phone is confiscated on a second occasion a parent or carer will be expected to collect it personally from school. Failure to hand the phone/device over to a member of staff when requested, will be seen as refusing staff instructions and will therefore lead to serious sanctions such as Isolation, placement at another school or exclusion. We ask that parents/carers support us in this policy so that students are aware that this is a shared responsibility.

- 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 investigation. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.

- Students remain responsible for their own property and will bear the responsibility of any losses. The Kimberley School, Governing body and school staff accept no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises, school events or travelling to and from school.

- Any failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in 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. In the case of other electronic devices, the risks far outweigh any leisure benefit. The wearing of headphones in particular is a safety risk.

GENERAL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE USE OF MOBILES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Using your mobile can be great fun but you need to be careful and keep safe.

- Ask permission before taking a picture of your friends and think before sending it on. Once sent you have lost control of it and it could become public before you know it.

- Filming of activities posted on the internet or social networking sites such as You Tube or Facebook is unwise and dangerous.

- Don’t give out your number or friends’ numbers to people you don’t know, especially in Instant Messenger or Chat Rooms.

- Keep your security code or PIN number private.

- If you get texts, which upset you, don’t reply but keep a record and tell an adult. In serious cases you can report it to the police.

- If you receive an inappropriate, offensive or embarrassing image or text about someone don’t forward it to others.

- Distributing sexual images of other young people is harassment and could be illegal. If you receive something like this tell an adult immediately.

See Kidsmart at www.kidsmart.org.uk for more information on staying safe, leaflets and interactive games.

THE POTENTIAL RISKS

- Mobiles are valuable and can be lost or stolen.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones can result in serious sanctions being taken.
- Students can be bullied by text messaging or silent phone calls.
- Mobiles can be used to communicate inappropriate material.
- Unsuitable people are known to use mobile phones and text messages to make inappropriate contact with young people.

Signed: …….. Headteacher

Signed: ……..

Chair of Pupil and Personnel Committee

Dated: ……

Next Review Date: Spring Term 2016 (February)

Approved by P&P Committee 12 February 2015 Min 52.2 (i) refers