



Mrs S Bridger
Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phone Policy

Last term, we conducted a survey regarding mobile phones and want to thank the many parents who participated. We have also spoken with staff and many students regarding the issue of mobile phones in the Academy.

We have noticed increasing trends over a period of time with regards to concerns from parents, carers, staff and students, regarding the inappropriate use of electronic devices and how they impact on individuals.

These include:

- Misuse of social media
- A barrier to learning
- Safeguarding concerns
- Students contacting parents/carers during lessons
- Students contacting each other during lessons
- Impacts on mental health

We have carefully considered the effects of mobile phones in education and there is also much research on this matter and the detrimental effect they can have to learning. With this in mind, there will be a new mobile phone policy, which will commence on **Monday 10th July 2023**.

All students will be required to comply with the following protocols and expectations regarding the use of mobile phones at Greenacre Academy and these will be included in our Mobile Phone Policy.

Travelling to and from the Academy

Students can bring mobile phones with them to the Academy and we are not asking for them to be left at home. We appreciate and value the safety aspect of having a mobile phone with them when travelling.

During the Academy day

Before entering the school site, all mobile phones must be turned off and then put away into their school bags or zipped inside their blazer pocket.

Students will not be permitted to use their mobile phone in lessons, in the corridors or at break or lunch time anywhere on school site.



The following process will happen:

- Upon entering the school gate, students will be required to keep their mobile phones out of sight and securely stored in their bags/blazer zipped pockets until they have left the school grounds.

This will help establish a clear boundary between school and personal life and reinforce the importance of maintaining a focused learning environment.

Behaviour sanction for not following the policy

Our '**See It, Hear It, Take It**' policy will be implemented with all student mobile phones.

This means if your son's mobile phone is either seen or heard, it will be removed and confiscated and placed in the Academy safe at Reception.

Collection will be from 3.00pm onwards. Students will be expected to sit in the canteen area at the end of the Academy day, after line-up, and wait for their name to be called for the return of their phone.

Additional information

For students who have medical conditions that use a mobile phone for monitoring purposes, special consideration will be made. Please inform us if this applies to your son by contacting reception.

If students need to contact parents/carers during the Academy day they can do so via the relevant key stage hub/SEN/Reception. Parents/carers can also use this facility to contact their child in an emergency.

Air pods/earphones

We do not expect to see these at all on the school site please. If they are used on the journey to school, they are to be removed and put away as soon as they enter school site.

Smart watches

Smart watches are internet and camera enabled and therefore present the same concerns as mobile phones in terms of safeguarding. Therefore, Smart watches will not be allowed in school and the same rules apply as above.

Confiscation and sanctions

If a mobile phone has been confiscated on **more than two** occasions because a student has repeatedly failed to follow the Mobile Phone policy, parents/carers will be required to collect the mobile phone at the end of the Academy day. It will not be returned to the student at the end of the Academy day.

If a student refuses to follow instructions related to the confiscation of their mobile phone, then this will be seen as defiance and will result in a more serious sanction.

We kindly ask for your support and understanding as we aim to create a more focused and engaging atmosphere for our students. Our primary goal is to provide an environment that promotes active learning, fosters meaningful social interactions, and allows our students to take a break from the distractions of technology. We want our students to engage in face-to-face communication during their breaks and lunchtime, rather than relying on digital devices. We firmly believe that this will enhance their interpersonal skills, promote meaningful connections, and allow them to truly unwind from the demands of the digital world.

We understand that this change may pose some initial challenges, but we firmly believe in the long-term benefits it will bring to our students' overall well-being and academic performance. By removing the constant presence of mobile phones, we hope to create a space where students can fully immerse themselves in the educational experience and cultivate meaningful relationships with their peers.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bridger'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct flourish at the end.

Mrs S Bridger
Headteacher