

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Aim

1. This policy explains the circumstances in which students may, and may not, use mobile phones at School. For details about safe and appropriate use, see Student ICT Code of Conduct – Acceptable Use Policy and Student Anti-Bullying Policy.

Introduction

2. Mobile phones, including internet-enabled smart phones, are part of our lives and are both an asset and a distraction. Their use also entails potential risks to safety and wellbeing, especially for young people. Christ's Hospital takes a stepped approach to entrusting students in each year group with access to smart phones and educates students about their safe and sensible use.

Second Form students

3. In their essential transition year, whilst the focus is on settling in and socialisation, Second Form students are not routinely allowed smart phones or other internet-enabled devices at School. Second Form students may have basic mobile phones in order to keep in touch with home by call and text message. Exceptions are made for day students, on the basis that changes to their daily travel arrangements may need to be communicated at short notice, and for international students owing to the complexities of communication across time zones. Any day student or international student who misuses their smart phone will be sanctioned in accordance with relevant policies and may lose access to the smart phone for a period of time, with alternative communication arrangements being put in place, in consultation with parents/guardians.

Third Form students

4. Third Form students are allowed to bring smart phones to School, but their use is strictly limited to the period between evening roll call and shortly before bedtime, at which point they are handed in for safe keeping. Exceptions are made for day students and international students, as explained above. Third Form students are not allowed to use social media, including WhatsApp, to communicate with other Christ's Hospital students, other than their own siblings.

Access to telephones when students do not have their mobile phones

5. If a Second or Third Form student needs to make a telephone call to a parent or guardian during the day, when they do not have access to their mobile phone, they may use the payphones that are available or make use of the landline in the matron's office, or the mobile phones held by the matrons for this purpose. Any student who needs assistance during the night, for any reason, can call matron by means of the dedicated phonenumber provided in their boarding house.

Use of phones whilst in Housey

6. Only those students in the DG and GR years are permitted to carry phones throughout the day whilst in Housey. Other students are not permitted to carry phones until lessons have finished for all year groups for the day. Exceptions are made for a small number

of younger students on specific medical grounds. Mobile phones should not be used or visible between lessons, when students are walking around the site or in main School buildings such as Chapel and Big School. There must be no use of personal headphones or earbuds whilst in Housey, unless the Learning Support team has authorised the use of noise-reducing headphones for an individual student.

7. Students may not use phones in Dining Hall during breakfast and lunch but may do so at tea and Sunday brunch.

Use of phones in lessons

8. Phones may be used by students in the DG and GR years in class time, to support the educative process, at the discretion of the teacher. Students are not permitted to use phones, nor may they be visible, in lessons unless the teacher has given express permission.
9. The sanction for having a phone out whilst in Housey, or inappropriately in a lesson, is confiscation. The teacher will place the confiscated phone into a labelled envelope and take it to the School Office where it will be kept securely until the houseparent is able to collect it. Students must not go to the School Office to ask for their confiscated phone. The houseparent will return the phone to the student, usually within 48 hours, unless the situation is a repeat occurrence, in which case the confiscation period may be extended.

Use of phones in boarding houses

10. Students in the LE and above may use their phones for prep work and for communication with friends and family in their free time. Second Form to DG students will hand their phones in at night. GR students have the option to hand phones in overnight, to support good sleep habits. In the Michaelmas term, Second Form to GE students will also hand all other internet enabled devices in at night. In the Lent and Summer terms, Second Form to UF students will continue to hand all internet enabled devices in at night.

Author: RMJB

Date of last review: August 2023

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