

# The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust

## Mobile phone, MP3 player and Games Console policy

### Version Control

**Policy author:** Mark Pollard  
**Policy approved by:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Next policy review date:** October 2023

Version	Date	Details
1.0	Sept 2021	New policy for the MAT

### Rationale

Mobile phones are a feature of modern society. The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and all its schools recognise the wishes of a number of parents/carers for students to carry a mobile phone to assist with safe journeys to and from school.

This policy refers to mobile phones throughout, but also applies to all electronic devices (e.g. smart watches) that may be used in similar ways.

### Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy

It is our policy to allow students to have a mobile phone with them in school should they choose to do so under the conditions outlined in the policy below:

- Phones must not be used for any purpose (e.g. phoning, texting, using the internet, taking photos, checking the time, using it as a calculator, taking videos etc) on the school site.
- Phones must always be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view. If a student breaches these rules the phone will be confiscated and taken to reception. Parents/carers will be required to collect the confiscated item from school on behalf of their son/daughter. Please note that the reception closes shortly after the end of the school day in each school. **If it is not possible for a parent/carer to collect the phone, then it will be released to the student from whom it was confiscated at the end of 5 working days.**
- Any subsequent or serious breach of the rules will result in confiscation for up to six weeks (including weekends and school holidays).
- Students who breach these rules will be subject to sanctions under the 'Behaviour Policy'. This includes refusal to comply with appropriate confiscation which will be treated as an incident of defiance.

### Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy (Years 12 & 13)

Students in Years 12 and 13 are subject to the same conditions as those outlined above, with the exception that they are allowed to use their phones during the school day **in the Sixth Form areas only (not classrooms). They should not be used in other areas of school.**

### Mobile phones and examinations

Phones must not be taken into examinations. The possession of a mobile phone, smart watch or any other electronic devices in an examination room, whether switched on or not is an offence under JCQ regulations. This can lead to disqualification from some or all of an examination series, regardless of whether there is a proven intent to cheat.

### Malicious use

- If a user of a mobile phone receives any communication that could be portrayed as menacing, causing harassment or offence to others, they should report it to a member of staff immediately.
- It is a criminal offence under Section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988 to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. The MAT may involve the police should such an action occur.

### Searching a phone

In line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), staff may search a phone, including examining data and files, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence has been committed or there may be evidence of personal injury or damage to property. Further details on searching, screening and confiscation and a link to the regulations from the DfE can be found in the 'Behaviour Policy'.

### **Sharing nude and semi-nude images**

Making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is 'indecent' is illegal. This includes imagery of yourself if you are under 18. All incidents and suspected incidents will be investigated as a safeguarding matter in line with our "Safeguarding Children Policy (including Child Protection" and most recent government guidance:

[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

### **Emergencies**

If a student needs to contact his/her parents/carers they will be allowed to use a school phone. If parents/carers need to contact students urgently they should phone the school reception and a message will be relayed promptly.

### **Security for mobile phones and other valuables**

The school cannot accept any responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile devices, nor for theft, loss or damage to any other valuable item, or for the theft or loss of money. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and students to ensure mobile phones and other valuables are insured.

### **MP3 and other music and multimedia players and hand-held games consoles**

Students in Years 7-11 should not bring MP3 and/or other music and multimedia players or games consoles into school **at any time** and consequently they should not be used in lessons or around the school. The high value of these items creates added security issues within school for both the student and supervising staff. Any student who brings such items into school will be subject to the sanctions described previously.