



Science

LANGUAGE
COLLEGES

Urmston Grammar School

Science College
Languages specialism



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January 2009

Mobile Telephones - use and abuse.

Dear Parents,

It is increasingly obvious that mobile telephone possession is again becoming an issue for us at school. Unlike many schools we do not ban them. In reality, few staff could survive without them and when caught in traffic, hands free mobile use ensures that we are able to cover for staff whose arrival may be delayed.

Our liberal approach in this matter is to allow both the student and parent the security of being able to use such telephones in cases of extreme emergency. The price our students are expected to pay is that **the telephone must be switched off during lessons and registration periods** and not openly visible during lessons and social time i.e. breaks and lunchtime outside designated areas, otherwise they will be confiscated for 48 hours.

You should be aware too, of the effect that telephoning your sons and daughters has. Parents are managing to interrupt the whole school at assembly time, and during formal lessons, by telephoning and 'text messaging' with reminders and interesting family news. We feel we must draw the line somewhere!

Any emergency contact needed during the school day should be via the switchboard of the school in the main office on 0161 748 2875; by doing this we are kept aware of where your children are, and also the common courtesies when taking a child out of school are not overlooked.

Any mobile telephone seen by a member of staff will be kept in the school safe for collection after 48 hours or at the latest by 3.25 p.m. Friday.

Mobile telephones with photographic and video facility should not be used in school.

We are deeply concerned about their potential for being used to take covert images in toilets, changing rooms, on the field as well as in lessons. This concern is so widespread that we understand legislation in the U.S.A. may be introduced to make such use a criminal matter.

You need to be aware that we will formally exclude any student found taking covert or voyeuristic pictures. We will also consider exclusion as a sanction for any photograph taken without the express approval of the subject. Publishing such material on the internet is also a wholly unacceptable abuse of our privacy.

We all value our personal privacy and such use of image taking telephones has no place in a school. Whilst we await more formal legislation and possible council action, we believe it appropriate to take the steps outlined above with immediate effect.

Pupils are also reminded that we do not accept a need for personal stereos, radios, games machines etc. to be brought in to school. The use of mobile telephones with radio facility is similarly unacceptable. We will not be held responsible for losses should students ignore this stance.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher.

Original policy drawn up February 2006



Specialist Schools
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EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

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A Foundation School offering Science and Languages specialism
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