

Mobile Phone & Electronic Device Statement of Practice



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

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Belong, Believe, Achieve

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Introduction

Bluecoat Beechdale Academy recognises the benefits and opportunities which new technologies offer to teaching and learning. We provide internet access to all of our students and encourage the use of technologies in order to enhance skills, promote achievement and enable lifelong learning. We also appreciate the safety benefits for families in allowing their child to have something such as a mobile phone when travelling to and from the academy and we feel this should continue. However, we have become increasingly concerned that the array of new technologies incorporated more recently into mobile phones, presents a temptation which can not only inhibit learning within the classroom but also contravenes our IT user agreement, with respect to student access to social networking sites whilst in school and our wider safeguarding duties as a result.

Related Policies, Statements of Practice and procedures:

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- IT User Agreement

Statement of Practice

For the purpose of this document, the word “devices” will include: laptops, netbooks, mobile phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, head / earphones, smart watches and/or the internet and any other electronic/mobile device that can be used for communication.

Their inappropriate use can make pupils and staff vulnerable and because we are committed to staff and dedicated to the development of pupils’ character, we insist upon the following:

1. Our expectation at the Academy is that whilst students may decide to carry their mobile phone with them to and from the academy, it should be turned off and put away before entering the academy premise. This means at any time including before and after the school day and includes any part of the school grounds inside or outside.
2. Under no circumstances must a device be used or on view whilst on the academy premises. Any student found with their phone/device out and/or switched on whilst on academy premises will have this confiscated immediately by the member of staff and collected by the student’s parent/carer from reception.
3. Students should not have ear/headphones on view as there is no need due to the above. If seen, these will be confiscated and collected by parents/carers from reception.
5. Students are not permitted to wear a smart watch in the academy.
6. Students found using a device in an inappropriate way, for example to bully another student, will face additional sanction. This includes actions from within school or at home.
7. The teacher has the discretion to allow students to use a personal device in the classroom for a specific project, to help with their learning, however, once this is complete the device must be turned off and put away again. Cases of this are likely to be rare; such cases will not extend to include students listening to music.
8. Devices found being used in the academy can also be subject to a search by our staff (whether any offence took place in school or outside of it) to protect students and staff. Where we find these have been used inappropriately we will inform parents and, if part of illegal practice, we will inform the police.

9. Even if not physically seen, the academy also reserves the right to search for and remove devices if they suspect that they are being used or that they are making the student / other students / adults vulnerable in some way.
10. Should a student need to make contact with their parent/carer then our Year Leaders/ Office staff will be happy to support with this should it be deemed necessary, though that decision rests with the Year Leader or SLT member.

The academy will take no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of a device- these are brought at the student's/parents' discretion.

Sharing of indecent images

In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCIS, 2020), this is defined as the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams online by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or forums. It could also involve sharing between devices via services, for example, Apple's AirDrop which works offline. Alternative terms used by children and young people may include 'pics', etc.

The motivations for taking and sharing nude and semi-nude images, videos and live streams are not always sexually or criminally motivated.

This advice does not apply to adults sharing nudes or semi-nudes of under 18-year olds. This is a form of child sexual abuse and must be referred to the police as a matter of urgency.

If an incident comes to the attention of staff, it will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately, the member of staff will Follow BBA's child protection policy and the steps below:

1. Members of staff will never view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery themselves, or ask a child to share or download – this is illegal.
2. If they have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to them before they could ask them not to), this will be reported this to the DSL and they seek support.
3. Staff will not delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
4. Staff will not ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL or Year leader.
5. Staff will not share information about the incident with other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.
6. Staff will not say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved.
7. Staff will explain to the student that they need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL/year leader.