

## Draft Mobile phone and Hand Held Music and Games Devices Policy

This policy is underpinned by the Education and Inspections Act of 2006 which clarifies the rules on confiscation at school.

The government has set out the rules on confiscation in one short section of the act and requires staff to show that:

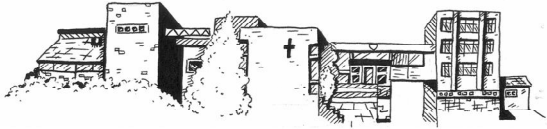
1. they had the requisite authority (any paid member of staff does, as do unpaid staff members if so authorised by the Headteacher)
2. the confiscation was on school premises, or elsewhere where the pupil was under their control
3. the confiscation was 'reasonable'.

St Teilo's CW School recognises that parents may wish their children to have mobile phones for use cases of emergency. However, mobiles can be used inappropriately and are potentially targets for theft and bullying. The school sees no reason for students to bring other electronic music or games devices to school.

It is not realistic to prohibit phones being brought to school, nor is it logistically possible for schools to collect phones in each morning and return them in the afternoon. It is our policy to allow students to have a mobile phone with them in school under the conditions outlined in the policy below.

### Policy

1. Phones must not be used for any purpose (eg: phoning, texting, taking photos, checking the time, taking videos) between the hours of 8:30 and 3:30.
2. Phones must always be switched off and kept out of view. If they ring during a lesson, members of staff are instructed to confiscate them and lodge them with Mrs Weatherall or Mrs Walker. Phones and other electronic devices will also be confiscated if pupils are found using them at any time in the school day.
3. The confiscation of the phone or electronic device will be recorded and the owner must collect it from Mrs Weatherall at the end of the school day. A second such confiscation in any term will result in the phone or



electronic device being confiscated for a week. Persistent offending will result in parents being contacted and an escalation of consequences as per the schools behaviour policy.

4. Students in Years 7-11 may not use their phones at any time during the school day either to make or to receive calls. Pupils who have an emergency can go to the school office or Director of studies to seek permission to use the school telephones to contact parents.
5. The school will not accept any responsibility for mobile telephones. If they go missing or are lost we are not prepared to waste staff time searching for them. We suggest that parents take out insurance cover if mobile telephones are to be brought into school and that more expensive models are not used. It is advisable to protect phones with security marking and codes.
6. Students must not use phones to film or take photographs of other students, staff or visitors at any time in school. This is a breach of the law regarding privacy and confidentiality. Such action will result in serious sanctions being imposed.
7. Bullying by text or picture phone will be treated very seriously and may result in a fixed term exclusion.
8. Mobile phones are not to be used during examinations. Students are made aware that having a mobile phone on their person during an examination will compromise the outcome of that and possibly future examinations sat.

This policy is designed to support staff and the majority of students who understand and appreciate the importance of well-ordered classrooms and expectations that facilitate effective learning in a school that prides itself on delivering "Education with Care".

February 2011