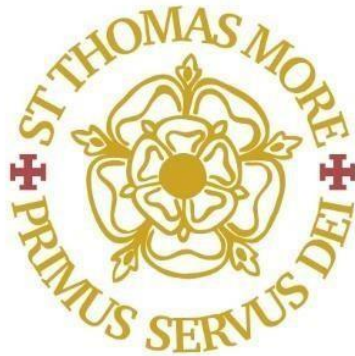




## **Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy**

St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School

‘One body in Christ’



**Approved by:**

Local Academy Governors

**Date:**

**Next review due by:**

March 2024

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## Rationale

The school is committed to ensuring that the climate for learning is the best that it can be. The rule governing the use of mobile devices including speakers and headphones is clear. We understand that some students may have mobile phones in their possession for emergency contact with parents/carers and travel purposes. However, they are not allowed to be seen or heard anywhere\* on the school premises.

\*Exception is given to students using their phones to pay for food/drinks in the canteen

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### Purpose

- Students, their parents or carers must read the policy and understand the acceptable use policy as a condition upon which permission is given to bring mobile phones to school.
- The acceptable use policy for mobile phones also applies to students during school excursions, educational visits and extra-curricular activities on the school site and on external visits.

### Responsibility

- The decision to provide a mobile phone to their children should be made by parents or carers. It is incumbent upon parents to understand the capabilities of the phone and the potential use/misuse of those capabilities.
- Parents/Carers should be aware that if their child takes a mobile phone to school, the school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or costs incurred due to its use.
- Parents/Carers are reminded that in case of emergency, **reception** remains the first point of contact and can ensure your child is contacted quickly and assisted in the relevant way.

### Acceptable Uses

- The school recognises the importance of emerging technologies present in modern mobile phones. Students are permitted to use their phones to pay for food/drinks in the canteen at break and lunch only.
- Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight once the student enters the perimeter gates at the start of the day (all paraphernalia should be put away so that it is out of sight in the building).
- Mobile phones and associated paraphernalia e.g. Headphones, chargers etc. should not be seen whilst moving between lessons, at break time, lunchtime, during lessons or tutor time.
- Please see the table below for directed times that mobile phones can/cannot be acceptably used.

	On entry to school	Form Time	Break Time	Lessons	Movement between lessons	Lunch time	End of the day
7 – 11	X	X	Y To pay for food/drinks only	X	X	Y To pay for food/drinks only	Not inside school gates but acceptable outside school site
Sixth Form*	X	X	Y To pay for food/drinks only	Y To support learning	X	Y To pay for food/drinks only	Not inside school gates but acceptable outside school site
*Phones are acceptable in the Sixth Form Centre to support learning (and at lunch time)							

- Key for above; X = not acceptable to be seen at any time with phone.

#### Unacceptable Uses

- Students should not use mobile phones to check Firefly, Timetables or 'the time'.
- Using mobiles to bully and threaten is unacceptable. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated. In some cases it can constitute criminal behaviour.
- Unless express permission is granted, mobile phones should not be used to make calls, send messages, internet usage, take photos or any other associated application.
- Listening to music through headphones will not be allowed in any lesson. Music may be played by the class teacher to improve ambience for learning but will be done through the main speakers.
- Mobile phones are banned from all examinations.

#### Sanctions

Students who infringe the rules will be issued with a Red Card. All Red Cards will be included within the totaliser that can lead to severe sanctions such as isolation, seclusion or suspension.