



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

1. LEGISLATION

The amendment to the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 places a complete ban on the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving.

Drivers who use hand-held phones while driving or employers who require or permit their workers to do so, will be subject to penalties ranging from a fixed penalty notice of £60 and 3 points on their licence to a fine of up to £1,000, or £2,500 for drivers of goods vehicles or vehicles that carry nine or more passengers.

Hand-held mobile phones used with an earphone and microphone will be covered under the ban, as they still require the user to hold the phone to press buttons or to read a message on the phone's screen.

2. THE SCHOOLS POLICY

2.1 The use of hand-held phones while driving, whether to make or receive a call, is prohibited. The only exception to this will be in the event of a genuine emergency call to 999 or 112, if it would be unsafe for the driver to stop.

Please Note:-

Hands-free phones are not banned under the current legislation. However they are distracting and you still risk prosecution for failing to have proper control of a vehicle under Regulation 104 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, if you use a hands-free phone when driving. If there is an incident, the use of any phone or similar device might justify charges of careless or dangerous driving. The penalties on conviction for such offences include heavy fines, endorsement, disqualification and, in serious cases, imprisonment.

2.2 The Principals and employees of the schools will not require any employee to receive or make calls on a mobile phone while driving. Mobile phones must instead be directed to the message/voicemail service while driving.

- 2.3 Calls must only be answered or made when the vehicle is parked in a safe place, with the engine switched off. Check for messages and return calls when it is safe to do so.
- 2.4 The Principals will not assist in the payment of any fine levied against anyone using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. An employee will be regarded as driving if the engine is running, even if the vehicle is stationery.
- 2.5 Notification of any contravention of these requirements may be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

This policy will be reviewed annually.		
Reviewed: December 2007	By:	Margaret Tuck, Director of Administration
Next Review: December 2008	By:	Margaret Tuck, Director of Administration