



# The Academy of Musical Theatre

## Mobile Device and Social Media Policy

### ***Purpose***

At AMT we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our children, parents and staff, as well as the wider community.

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for children, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support AMT's other policies; Safeguarding, Behaviour and Anti-Bullying

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Data protection issues
- Potential for lesson disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage

### ***Roles and Responsibilities***

#### STAFF

All staff (including teachers & support staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy. Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by AMT, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

AMT Directors are responsible for monitoring the policy every 2 years, reviewing it, and holding staff and students accountable for its implementation.

#### STUDENTS

AMT recognises that parents/carers feel the need for their children to have access to a mobile phone for communication home. This helps with safeguarding and child protection. AMT supports this approach wholeheartedly.

To that end, the academy has adopted the following mobile phone best use policy:

- Students are permitted to bring mobile phones to AMT to ensure their personal safety at all times
- Students must not use their mobile phone during lessons or activities, unless the teacher specifically permits it
- Phones must be switched off or put on 'silent' and remain out of sight during classes and rehearsals
- Student may use their phones in non-teaching spaces, while on a break in-between classes or on lunch
- Students must not use their mobile phone in the toilets or changing rooms. This is to protect the privacy and welfare of other children
- Students are forbidden from taking photos or recordings (either video or audio) of AMT staff or other students unless their consent is freely given

- We advise students not to share their phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else
- Students must not use their mobile phone to bully, intimidate or harass anyone. This includes bullying, harassing or intimidating students or staff via:
  - o Email
  - o Text/messaging app
  - o Social media
- Students must not use vulgar, obscene or derogatory language while on the phone or when using social media
- Any footage taken of rehearsals and posted on the (closed) AMT Facebook group, must not be shared on any other social media platform and/or in the public domain

AMT accepts no responsibility for the devices brought onto the premises and will not be liable for any potential theft, loss or damage.

### ***Connection to other AMT policies***

This policy aligns with and supports the following policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Code of Conduct/Anti-Bullying Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

### ***Review and renewal***

AMT Directors will review and renew this policy bi-annually to ensure its appropriateness and efficacy

