Personalised Learning College, North Yorkshire

Learner Policy on Mobile Devices and Smart Technology

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that mobile devices and smart technology are used effectively, safely, and inclusively to support the learning, independence, and well-being Personalised Learning College (PLC) learners. It recognises the potential of technology to enhance accessibility, communication, and personalised learning while maintaining a respectful and focused educational environment.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Learners enrolled at the college
- Staff supporting learners
- Parents/carers (where applicable)
- External support professionals working within the college

Guiding Principles

- **Accessibility First**: Technology should reduce barriers to learning and promote equal access.
- **Respect and Safety**: Usage must respect the privacy, safety, and dignity of all learners.
- **Empowerment**: Devices should empower learners to be more independent and engaged.
- **Personalisation**: Support should be tailored to individual needs, as outlined in EHCPs or support plans.

Acceptable Use

Learners may use mobile devices and smart technology (being the devices the ownership of the College, the learner or Barnsley AT) for the following purposes:

- AAC Devises
- Accessing assistive apps (e.g., text-to-speech, speech-to-text, screen readers)
- Managing schedules and reminders to support executive functioning
- Communicating with staff using approved messaging platforms
- Using sensory regulation apps or tools during designated times
- Participating in online learning platforms or college-approved educational tools

Unacceptable Use

The following uses are not permitted:

- Using devices to access inappropriate content
- Recording staff or peers without consent
- Using devices during assessments unless explicitly allowed
- Excessive use that disrupts learning or social interaction
- Sharing personal information or engaging in unsafe online behaviour

Support and Training

- Learners will receive guidance on safe and effective use of technology.
- Staff will be trained to support learners in using assistive technology tools.
- Individual technology plans may be developed for learners with specific needs.

Safeguarding and Data Protection

- All device use must comply with and used in conjunction with the NYC and the college safeguarding and data protection policies.
- Learners must not store sensitive personal data on personal devices unless encrypted and approved.
- Staff must monitor usage in line with safeguarding protocols.
- Staff must not allow learners access to their teacher log in details
- Learners will be issued with their own Schools ICT account

Monitoring and Review

- Use of technology will be reviewed regularly as part of each learner's support plan.
- Feedback from learners, staff, and parents will inform updates to the policy.
- Any breaches must be reported immediately by following NYC Data Protection regulations