

Keeping your belongings safe

Here are a few basic steps to reduce the risk of having your mobile phone, MP3 player or any other valuable property stolen from you:

Don't make it easy for criminals. Think before you use your phone in public or on public transport - especially at bus stops, the tube or train stations.

Keep a record of your phone's IMEI number - just type *#06# (star, hash, 06, hash) into your phone and it will display a fifteen digit number. You can use this number to register your phone at www.immobilise.com

Many of the latest mobile phones have apps that can help you find your phone. Make sure you download these and have them on your phone as they are free. If your phone is stolen, tell the police about your app.

You stand a very good chance of getting your phone back when stolen, particularly if the matter is reported to the police quickly. Don't wait until you get home. Get someone to ring the police on 101, or speak directly to a member of your school staff or a police officer. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Take care when leaving school and in crowded places. Try to be aware of what's happening around you. Keep your mobile and other valuable property out of sight.

If you do have your phone stolen, remember don't fight back; it's much safer to give them what they want than get hurt or injured

The theft of a mobile phone and selling it onto someone else is a serious crime. So is the false reporting of a mobile phone being stolen so that you can claim on the insurance.

Never buy or accept a mobile phone that you believe may be stolen. This could get you arrested and result in a criminal record.

For more information and advice on how to stay safe, remember you can speak to your Safer Schools officer or visit www.safe.met.police.uk

If you have any information about a crime but feel unable to speak to the police, you can call the [Crimestoppers](http://www.crimestoppers.org.uk) charity anonymously on [0800 555111](tel:0800555111)