

Mobile Phone Policy (Students)

1. Rationale

Mobile phones and related items are a normal part of modern life and support safety when travelling to and from school. However, their use during the school day leads to:

- Disruption to learning
- Reduced focus and engagement
- Social conflict and cyberbullying
- Negative impacts on wellbeing
- Reduced face-to-face interaction

The school's position is therefore clear:

Mobile phones must not be used, seen, or heard during the school day.

This aligns with national expectations that schools restrict mobile phone use to support behaviour and learning.

2. Core Expectations

- Phones and related items must be switched off before entering the school building and placed in bags (not pockets)
- Phones must remain out of sight at all times on the school site between 8:10am and 3:15pm, including Breaks and Lunches.
- This includes:
 - Headphones / AirPods
 - Tablets or other similar devices
 - Smartwatches (unless in airplane mode / non-communication mode)
 - Misuse of smartwatches for communication will result in these being confiscated as per phones.
- Phones must not be used to check timetables, check the time or access Teams during the school day.

3. Use During the School Day

Phones may only be used with explicit staff permission, for a specific educational or safeguarding reason. Otherwise, use is not permitted at any time, including social times.

4. End of Day

- Phones may be turned back on once outside the building. Students may then check messages for travel arrangements.

5. Confiscation (“You use it, you lose it”)

- Any phone seen, heard, or used will be confiscated immediately
- Staff will place the switched off device(s) in a named envelope.
- Devices will be delivered to the main admin office where they will be stored securely

Sanction structure:

- 1st offence: collected by the student at end of the day
- Repeat offences: parent/carer must collect from reception
 - If a parent/carer is unable to collect then by arrangement the student may be allowed to collect from reception at the end of the day on the Friday after the phone is confiscated
- Persistent repeated confiscation may result in longer term retention or a complete ban of phone on site (enforced by regular searches)
- Refusal to hand over a phone = defiance and escalated sanctions up to and including suspension from school.

6. Communication with Home

- Students will not be able to use phones to contact home during the day
 - In case of needing to pass an urgent message then students should go to the ASR where they may be able to make a call via the school phone system.
- Urgent messages from parents/carers to students should be passed via calling the school reception number

7. Sixth Form

- Use permitted only in designated sixth form areas and out of sight of younger years.
- Must follow main school rules elsewhere including corridors and shared areas.

8. Continuous Glucose Monitoring

- Students who require access to their phone for continuous glucose monitoring are still allowed to do this
- Phones should be accessed for this purpose only and the students with this need will be provided with a sticker for their planner to show staff if challenged.

9. Responsibility

- There is no school requirement to carry a mobile phone
- Students bring phones at their own/parent/carer risk
- The school accepts no liability for loss or damage of phones on site, including those that are confiscated.