



Mobile Phone Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set clear guidelines on the use of mobile phones, within the school to ensure a positive learning environment, free from unnecessary distractions, while promoting the safety and well-being of all students. Balancing the practical use of mobile phones and the mental health and wellbeing of our students is a priority. The school does not expect students to have mobile phones or smart enabled phones but recognises this is parental choice and therefore have outlined the acceptable use of mobile phones in this document.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students within the school grounds during school hours and on school-related activities (e.g. trips, events).

3. Policy Overview

- If a student brings a mobile phone to school, it should be switched off (not on silent or in airplane mode) and kept in bags during school hours, including lessons, assemblies, break and lunch times, unless specifically authorised by a teacher.
- Unauthorised use of mobile phones during school hours will result in an immediate sanction.

4. Guidelines for Students if they wish to bring a mobile phone to school

- **Before School:** Mobile phones should be turned off and stored in bags at the beginning of the school day, 8:40am.
- **During Lessons:** Mobile phones are not permitted.
- **Break and Lunchtimes:** Mobile phones are not to be used during these periods. This is to encourage social interaction and physical activity.
- **After School:** Mobile phones may be used after 3:15pm. If students are attending school clubs / activities, phones should only be used if specifically authorised by a teacher, e.g. to contact parents / carers to confirm collection arrangements.

5. Exceptions

- **Medical Needs:** Students with specific medical conditions requiring mobile phone use must have prior approval from the school, with documentation provided by parents/carers.
- **Emergency Situations:** In an emergency, students may be allowed to use their phones under staff supervision.

6. Consequences of Misuse

- **First Offence:** The phone will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
- **Second Offence:** The phone will be confiscated, and students will be required to sit a 30-minute detention before the phone is returned.
- **Repeated Offences:** Further misuse will again result in a 30-minute detention and may result in students being required to hand phones in to a member of the Leadership team, or other disciplinary measures in line with the school's behaviour policy.

7. Staff and Visitor Guidelines

- **Staff:** Staff are expected to be role models and should limit phone use to necessary situations, or in designated areas such as staff rooms or offices.
- **Visitors:** Visitors, including parents and carers, are asked to turn off or silence mobile phones during school visits to avoid distractions.

8. Liability

The school is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of mobile phones brought onto school premises. Students bring mobile phones at their own risk.

9. Communication with Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school reception or pastoral staff rather than their child's mobile phone during school hours for urgent matters.

10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the school's goals and the well-being of students.

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Our response
Does my child need a mobile phone for secondary school?	No. Students are not required to have a phone for any of our activities at school. We have an emphasis on social skills and face to face communication and our long-standing mobile phone expectations have put this at the front of our everyday practice.
Will my child be able to bring a mobile phone to school in their bag to aid their journey to school?	Yes – however all phones must be switched off and in bags / handed in between 8:40am – 3:15pm.
What time does my child need to have their phone in their bag / handed in?	During school hours - 8:40am – 3:15pm, and on school related trips / activities.
Can my child access their phone after school to arrange attendance at clubs / make arrangements to get home?	Students can use their phone from 3.15pm, or, if during school clubs / activities, when given permission by a teacher, e.g. to contact parents / carers to confirm collection arrangements.
What happens if my child needs to access their phone for medical reasons?	Students who have reasons to use their phone linked to a medical condition (such as diabetes), will be able to use their phone for this purpose and staff will be informed.
I support this approach but worry about how my child will adapt to this based on their current mobile phone usage.	We run regular parent information events that support areas linked to this such as mental health and online safety – you can view our Parent Events Calendar on the Quick Links section of the SLG Parent homepage. If you would like further advice, please contact your child’s Head of Year for a conversation.

<p>My child sometimes uses their phone to help regulate their behaviour</p>	<p>Our dedicated Pastoral Team work with a wide range of students supporting needs including regulation, and they use a variety of tools to support this. All staff are also aware of any regulatory needs via our SLG provision map information, and teachers plan their lessons to support need. If you have any specific questions around regulation support, please contact your child's Head of Year.</p>
<p>I am worried that my child is too attached to their phone.</p>	<p>Dorothy Stringer staff want to help every child in reducing their reliance on mobile phones. The Pastoral Team are keen to open dialogues with families to work collaboratively in finding solutions.</p>
<p>How will I communicate with my child in school?</p>	<p>All communication for students should come through our Main Reception number: 01273 852222 – messages are passed to students throughout the day.</p>
<p>How will my child communicate with me?</p>	<p>Students will be able to visit the Pastoral Hub to make contact with home in an emergency. Students can communicate with families via mobile phones at 3.15pm. Staff will always call home if they feel a parent needs to be contacted.</p>
<p>Will my child need to use a phone at school for any curriculum learning?</p>	<p>No. We have a range of technology in school to support the curriculum – mobile phones are not necessary for curriculum learning. Homework is set through a variety of mediums from paper-based work to online apps and the SLG. Technology based home learning can be accessed via tablets, laptops, or desktop computers. We run homework clubs daily and the library has a suite of computers for homework to be completed during break/lunch and after school clubs.</p>
<p>Does this rule apply to other technology e.g. headphones?</p>	<p>Yes. This rule applies to all headphones where they are connected to a mobile phone/watch. Students are also not permitted to use gaming devices in school and smart watches are not permitted in exams. Ear defenders/loops are permitted.</p>