

## **1. Why has the school introduced an updated mobile phone policy?**

Our school has operated a 'seen and not heard' mobile phone policy for some time.

The Department for Education has made clear that schools should be mobile phone-free environments to support learning and safeguarding. They are also clear that mobile phones should be prohibited, and students must not have access to their mobile phones at any point throughout the school day.<sup>1</sup>

We know that our policy is adhered to by the vast majority of students. We have reviewed the implementation of our policy based on feedback from parents, carers, students and staff and recognise that in order to implement the policy effectively this needs stronger enforcement for those who are seen with mobile phones whilst in school.

The policy can be found on our website [here](#)

## **Can my child bring a phone to school to support with safety and operational needs?**

Yes, however it **must** be:

- Switched off before entering the school site and for the duration of the school day
- Students must wait until they leave the perimeter before retrieving their phone from their bags
- Kept in their bag at all times (not in their blazer or in pockets)
- Kept in their bag and switched off until they have left the school perimeter
- Any phone seen out of a bag in pockets, blazers or on their person will be confiscated.

Phones must not be used to contact parents at any point during the school day and we would ask parents to support us in not contacting their children directly.

## **2. Will the rules apply to sixth form students?**

Yes. Sixth form students may only use phones in designated sixth form areas and must not use them in front of younger students. The sanctions for those in breach of the policy will apply equally for all year groups.

## **3. How will students be informed about the policy?**

- Via assemblies and Tutor Time briefings
- Reminders on TV screens and information around school
- The school's website information
- Information shared on Go4Schools
- Senior staff are positioned in areas outside the 'mobile phone prohibited' perimeter to remind students to switch phones off and place into bags

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

- Teaching staff will remind students of the school's policy

#### 4. What about smartwatches or headphones?

Devices with communication features (e.g. smartwatches and headphones) are treated the same as mobile phones if they are found to be used for messaging, calls, or media and they will be confiscated.

#### 5. My child has a medical condition which requires monitoring using their phone. Is there an exception for them?

Yes, in very limited cases:

Only medical needs which are monitored via a mobile phone may be authorised as an exceptional circumstance, however such requests must be approved by the school along with supporting evidence (via your child's Year Leader).

#### 6. What happens if a student breaks the rules?

First occasion:	Phone confiscated Parent/carer must collect it C4 sanction issued
Second occasion:	Phone confiscated Parent/carer must collect phone Internal suspension and removal from lessons
Third occasion:	Phone confiscated Parent/carer must collect it Suspension Ban on bringing a phone to school indefinitely

#### 7. Can the school search students for a phone?

Yes. Staff are allowed to search for and confiscate phones if they believe a student is breaking the rules. Headteachers and senior staff have a statutory power to search a student or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the student may have a prohibited item.<sup>2</sup> This is outlined in the school's Safeguarding Policy, available on the website.

#### 8. What if I need to contact my child during the day?

- We ask that parents and carers support this policy, and agree that students should not be contacted directly on their phones during school hours.

- Please contact the school reception, and staff will ensure your child receives any relevant messages

## 9. What are the rules if my child is on a school trip?

Individual trips (dependent on whether residential or a day trip) will provide specific guidance to parents and students, however the rules will mainly be the same by default and students will be informed of any exceptions.

## 10. Do the rules apply to adults on site?

Yes. Staff, parents, visitors, and volunteers must not have their phones visible in front of students.

## 11. How can parents support the policy?

Parents and carers can help by:

- Reinforcing the rules at home
- Ensuring that your child has a suitable bag to store their phone
- Avoiding contacting your child during school hours
- Discussing safe and responsible phone use

## 12. What is the 'mobile phone prohibited' perimeter?

Perimeter outline is defined by the dotted line and includes the area within the perimeter inclusive of the field areas on school site.



## 14. Will the policy be reviewed?

Yes. The policy is reviewed annually, taking into account feedback from parents, staff, and students, and the number of incidents of mobile phone confiscations.