



Mobile Devices Policy

DOCUMENT STATUS

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POLICY AIM

We understand that most students have mobile devices and/or other electronic/technical equipment. This is how young people communicate and function in the 21st century. However, we as a school, have some concerns about the use of such equipment in school. These items can, and do, cause disruption to lessons and sometimes lead to confrontation between student and teacher and between pupils. Mobile devices which have the capacity to take photographs/videos can be misused and as such can infringe the right of personal privacy. Some students who bring mobile devices into school may listen to them inappropriately, for example, in lessons. Many of these devices are very expensive and provide the temptation for theft or can be easily lost.

All examination boards reserve the right to disqualify students found with any electronic equipment in an examination.

As a result of the issues raised above:

- All equipment including mobile phones must be switched off **on entry** to school and remain switched off until the end of the school day.
- If a student is seen to use/be holding a device at any time during the school day the device will be confiscated by a member of staff and will be kept securely until the end of the day, when the student can collect it from the finance office. The device will be stored securely during this time. Any staff member can confiscate devices.
- In the event that the student refuses to hand over their mobile phone, parents/carers will be informed and the school Behaviour Policy sanctions will be applied. In such cases the phone will be held securely in school until parents/carers can come and collect it.
- No photographs or videos are to be taken on school premises by students without permission. This means that no photographs or videos can be taken with mobile telephones at any time either inside or outside of the building unless specific permission is given by a member of staff.
- Students must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading or pornographic images. The transmission of some information is a criminal offence. Students found to be responsible for this will have their phone confiscated; it will be returned only to their parent / carer or passed to the police where necessary.
- Students must not use personal mobile devices [including smart watches] in lessons and ear pieces/headphones should not be visible or used unless specific permission has been given by a member of staff or as a reasonable adjustment for SEND.
- Students who require a device to monitor an aspect of their health, such as blood sugar levels linked to diabetes will still be allowed to do so but this will need to be noted on their Health Care Plan.
- The parents/carers of students who repeatedly have their phone confiscated and/or refuse to hand over the phone/ device when asked to do so by a member of staff will be invited into school to discuss this problem
- We advise students not to bring into school any personal music devices / mobile phones or other electronic equipment, which are excessively expensive. We cannot be held

responsible for any loss/theft and hold no insurance for such eventualities

- We accept that there will be times when parents feel it is necessary for them to contact their children urgently. If parents have an emergency and need to contact students during the school day, they should telephone the school and the message will be passed to the child.
- In addition, we would ask parents to make their children aware of the dangers of listening to /reading mobile devices etc as they cross roads. The possibility of street crime- ie stealing/snatching of mobile phones should also be taken into account and thereby stressing the need for vigilance when walking to and from school.

Government Policy for 2026/27

The Government has indicated that they plan to make it statutory for schools to ensure that students cannot access their mobile devices during the school day (with exceptions made for those students who use their device to monitor a health issue such as diabetes) at some point in the upcoming academic year.

They have suggested 3 possible approaches for schools to achieve this;

1. Through full prohibition – i.e. that students cannot bring any mobile devices onto the school site
2. Through the safe storage of phones by staff in school
3. Through the use of secure pouches which block any signals and are magnetically unlocked at the end of a school day.

Each method has its' advantages and disadvantages and we will work with stakeholders throughout the year with the intention to implement either option 2 or 3 by September 2027 at the latest.

EXPECT TO ACHIEVE