

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Updated Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy in Line with Department for Education (DfE) Guidance**

I am writing to inform you of our updated Smart Device Protocol, which includes our strengthened Mobile Phone Policy. This update follows the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance published on 19 January 2026. The national guidance states that all schools should operate as “mobile-phone-free environments by default” throughout the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtimes. Ofsted will also review how consistently schools apply these expectations during inspections.

The DfE highlights that unrestricted use of mobile phones and smart devices can negatively affect learning, behaviour, wellbeing and safety. Research cited in the guidance shows that such devices contribute to distraction, reduced concentration, online bullying and safeguarding risks. Our updated protocol ensures that smart devices do not interfere with teaching, learning or the calm, safe environment we expect for all students.

**Smart Device Protocol (Updated 2026)**

Smart devices include any technology with similar functionality to a mobile phone - for example, the ability to send or receive messages or notifications, or record audio or video. This includes (but is not limited to) mobile phones, smartwatches, iPads and tablet devices.

**1. Purpose**

The school aims to maintain a calm, safe, and focused learning environment. Smart devices can disrupt learning, create safeguarding risks and distract from wellbeing. This protocol ensures smart devices do not interfere with teaching, learning or safety.

**2. Principles**

- The school is a device-free environment during the school day.
- Students may bring a smart device on site at their own risk, but it must always be switched off and out of sight. We recommend that devices are kept in a student's bag or locker where they will not be seen by mistake.
- Smart devices must not be seen or heard during lessons, tutor time, break or lunch, movement between lessons, or any other period of the school day. This includes on-site after-school clubs. Devices must not be seen or heard once students have entered the school gates and until they have left the school gates.

**3. Prohibited Use**

A student will be deemed to have broken the smart device rule if:

- A smart device is seen or heard at any time during the school day.
- A smart device is used for any purpose.
- A smart device is used in a lesson for any learning activity, such as (but not limited to) research, calculator function, or as a music device.
- A student contacts parents or carers using their smart device during the school day. If parents or carers need to contact a student, they should contact the school who will attempt to pass on any message. Please note – we will support students with

contacting home if needed – but only in emergencies. We have systems in place in school already if a student forgets lunch, for example.

- These rules also include areas such as the medical room, D69, C57 etc.
- These rules also extend to student checking their timetable during the school day, which will no longer be allowed – we are working on a system to this to support moving forward

#### **4. Sanctions (per half term)**

##### **First Breach:**

- Device confiscated until the end of the school day
- One-hour after-school detention

##### **Second Breach:**

- Device confiscated until the end of the school day
- One-hour after-school detention
- One-week daily device hand-in

Linked to the second breach, parents and carers should ideally agree that their child will not bring their smart device to school for the week, but we understand that some parents or carers may want their child to have a device when travelling to and from school. If a parent or carer says that the smart device is needed for travel, then it must be handed in at the start of each day at Student Services and will be returned at the end of the day.

Failure to hand in a device, or being found with one during a hand-in period, will result in further sanctions.

##### **Persistent Breaches or Non-Compliance will result in the following:**

- Extended device hand-in
- Internal exclusion
- Suspension

#### **5. Refusal to Hand Over a Device**

Refusal to hand over a device is a serious disciplinary matter and may lead to escalated sanctions including internal isolation and/or suspension.

#### **6. Exceptions**

Exceptions may only be granted in advance for medical, SEND or safeguarding reasons, and must be agreed in writing with your child's Year Leader/Key Stage Leader or the SENCO (Mr Price), with the Deputy Head Teacher for Inclusion (Miss Goodhead) issuing final approval.

We expect any exemptions to be very low in number – not all medical, SEND or safeguarding means an exemption, and requests in writing in advance of the launch will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please ensure any requests are placed in advance of the launch date detailed below.

#### **7. Responsibility and Security**

Students bring smart devices at their own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for loss, theft or damage, including if this happens when a device has been confiscated.

#### **8. Sixth Form Expectations**

- Sixth Form students must not use smart devices in areas that younger students access - they must not be seen or heard.
- Permitted use only in the Sixth Form Café, Study Room, Sixth Form IT Room, and under direction of subject teachers in Sixth Form classrooms.
- Smart devices, including headphones, must not be seen or used in corridors or communal spaces.
- Laptops and tablet devices may be used in areas such as the library and Heart Space for schoolwork purposes only.
- Breaches result in confiscation until the end of the day.

### **Implementation Timeline**

To support a smooth transition, we will introduce a soft launch from **Monday 13 July 2026**, (where expectation reminders will be issued, and devices confiscated if seen or heard as per current policy), followed by full implementation from **Monday 20 July 2026**, when all rules and systems outlined above will formally come into effect.

We ask for your full support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. By working together, we can maintain a positive, distraction-free learning environment in which every student can thrive.

A summary of this guidance and changes to policy will also be uploaded via a video link on the school website in due course.

The DfE guidance can be found here: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. It may be that queries are answered at a later date via a frequently asked questions document, should this be required.

Many thanks for your anticipated support!



**Mr J Edwards**  
**Assistant Head Teacher**