

# PARENT GUIDE

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

From September 2025, our school is moving to a smartphone-free environment. This decision is based on national guidance (DfE, 2024) and research showing that smartphone use in schools can harm learning, wellbeing, and safeguarding. This guide explains what the new rules mean for your child.

### Key Points at a Glance

- Year 7 (and all future cohorts): Smartphones are not allowed in school.
- Years 8–11: Smartphones must be handed in during tutor time each morning.
- Students may bring a basic “brick” phone for travel safety, but it must be switched off and kept in their bag on site.
- Exceptions: Students with medical or safeguarding needs may use phones in line with an agreed plan.
- Sixth Form: May use smartphones outside of lessons in designated Sixth Form areas only.

### How the System Works

- Morning collection (Years 8–11): Phones are handed in during tutor time and stored securely in a lockable box.
- Afternoon return: Phones are given back during tutor time before Period 5. Once routines are established, phones will be returned at the end of the day.
- Late arrivals: Students hand in their phone at Student Services when signing in late and collect it at the end of the day.
- Early departures: If a student leaves for an appointment or due to illness, Student Services will return their phone at sign-out.

### What if my child refuses to hand in their phone?

Refusal to hand in a phone will be treated as a behaviour issue, consistent with our Behaviour for Learning Policy. We are committed to applying this fairly to protect the learning environment and safeguard all students.

### What about students with medical or safeguarding needs?

Some students need smartphones for essential purposes such as diabetes monitoring or specialist learning equipment. In these cases, individual arrangements will be made in line with the student’s care or safeguarding plan. We remain fully committed to supporting the individual needs of every child.

### Why are we becoming a smartphone-free school?

Evidence shows that smartphones in schools can:

- Disrupt learning and concentration
- Increase risks of bullying and online harms
- Impact student mental health and wellbeing

DfE guidance (2024) strongly supports schools in banning or limiting smartphone use. UNESCO (2023) also recommends reducing digital distractions in education. By moving to a smartphone-free environment, we are putting student wellbeing, safety, and learning first.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions about how this policy applies to your child, please contact Student Services or your child's Head of Year.

## **References**

DfE (2024) Mobile phones in schools guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools-guidance>

UNESCO (2023) Technology in Education Report: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384725>