Mobile Phone Policy

Purpose

- To promote a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment by setting clear expectations for the use of mobile phones and personal electronic devices within school.

Government Guidance

- **Statutory Requirement:** The Department for Education (DfE) is amending the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill to make the ban a legal requirement rather than just guidance, effective by the 2026-27 school year.
- **"Phone-Free by Default":** Schools are expected to ensure pupils do not have access to mobile phones (or similar smart technology like smartwatches) from the start of the school day until the end, including breaks and lunchtimes.

Principles

- School is a mobile phone-free environment - school prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones
- Learning time must be free from unnecessary distraction
- Pupils should develop responsible digital habits and follow social media rules and regulations
- Expectations are clear, consistent, and fairly applied

General Expectations

- School is a mobile phone-free environment for all pupils, including use in toilets or changing areas
- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day
- Staff have permission to use their mobile phones to complete registers and log achievement and behaviour points for the pupils, as advised by the government these are teaching-related purposes

Permitted Use / Storage

- Lockers are available so pupils can safely store their mobile phone throughout the school day
- Phones should not be seen on school site so must always remain in a locker or school bag
- Pupils may use a mobile phone before and after the school day (e.g. for travel arrangements) **but not whilst on the school site.**
- **Phones need to be turned off and put away before entering the building**
- **At the end of the school day, phones must remain out of sight until the pupil has exited the building**

Role of the Parent/Carer

- Parents/carers play an important role in supporting the school on the use of mobile phones
- This should be discussed at home and the school policy reinforced
- Parents/carers should **not** contact their child during the school day via their child's mobile phone, contact should only be made via the School Office or Year Team

School Response to Mobile Phone Usage

Failure to follow expectations will result in:

- **First incident:** Phone immediately confiscated and not returned to pupil until the end of the school day and 30minute detention set
- **Repeated incidents:** Phone confiscated and returned only to parent/carer at the end of the school day, a period of isolation in the reflection room as a response to the breach of the academy expectations
- **Persistent breaches:** Further responses (e.g., detentions, reflections or suspensions and no phone on site – handed in to year team of a morning and collected at the end of the day on the gate)
- **If a student has a phone out at the end of the day, the year team will be emailed the pupil's name and a 30minute detention will be set, if this becomes a persistent problem then further actions will be implemented for persistent breaches**

- Serious and repeated misuse (e.g., bullying, inappropriate images) may result in:
  - This being considered a serious and persistent breach of the school's behaviour policy
  - A safeguarding investigation
  - Suspension or further disciplinary action/responses

Confiscation and Searching Procedures

- If confiscated, mobile phones will be stored securely in line with school procedures in the Year Team Office
- Staff will log confiscations on the school's Edulink platform and set the necessary response
- **The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage if pupils bring phones onto site - the law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to item**

Safeguarding / Misuse

- Any misuse will be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- The school may search a device where there is reasonable concern, in line with statutory guidance

Responsibility of Students and Parents/Carers

- **Pupils bring phones onto the school site at their own risk**

Reasonable Adjustments

- Exceptions may be made for pupils with medical or additional needs
- Use must be agreed through a formal plan (e.g., SEND or healthcare plan)

Mobile Phones Outside the School Day

- Mobile phones are permitted on trips, but their usage will be regulated by the Trip Leader, this could include phones being handed into staff for safekeeping. This will be communicated to parents/carers as part of the trip messaging and information
- Pupils are permitted to take their mobile phone with them on a school fixture to allow for travel arrangements to be made. However, whilst on a fixture, pupils are not permitted to use their mobile phone (e.g. when travelling on a minibus) unless directed to do so by the accompanying member of staff
- **School takes no responsibility if the phone is lost or damaged whilst on a school trip**