



Mobile and Smartphone Policy

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Summary of changes

1. Reference to new guidance from the DfE
2. Information about adjustments to the protocol of mobile phone use
3. Consequences for mobile phone infractions

Introduction

We are aware of the impact of mobile phones on mental health and wellbeing. We are also aware that not all students own a mobile or smart phone, so expecting students to use these as a learning tool is not reasonable. We educate our students about the benefits and risks of mobile devices and social media use through our PSHE schemes of learning.

In May 2026, the DfE updated their guidance to legislate the banning of mobile phones during the school day for students and staff (for personal use). There are exceptions to this legislation i.e. using a smart phone to monitor a medical device. The legislation came into action on 29th June 2026, with schools legally having to implement the ban from 1st September 2026 [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#).

The use of mobile phones by sixth form students in front of younger pupils is prohibited at both schools. However, we will permit sixth form students access to their mobile phone at certain and limited times and locations, reflecting that this stage of their education is one of increased independence and responsibility.

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Mobile phone use is permitted in the Sixth Form common rooms outside of lesson times, or where a member of staff has specifically authorised its use for a particular activity.

Procedures for students bringing mobile and smart phones to school

Follow the new legislation from the DfE, when students arrive at either school, their mobile phone must be powered off and in their bag. This is the same process for smartwatches, ear pods and headphones. This applies throughout the school day, whenever a student arrives at each site.

Consequences for mobile and smartphone use on school site and in lessons

The main consequence for using any devices outlined in this policy is confiscation. Any staff member has the right to request a mobile device (phone, pods, headphones or other i.e. games console) and the student is expected to hand this in without complaint or argument. Staff members can also request for devices if they are seen in pockets, or if pods/headphones are being worn, the students' phone will also be confiscated. In line with the new legislation, JMF6 has enacted a new tiered confiscation policy, leading to escalated consequences for repeated refusal to comply with our mobile phone policy:

1. Confiscation 1 – the mobile phone is kept at Reception, at the school where the confiscation took place, until the end of the school day for the student to collect.
2. Confiscation 2 – the mobile phone is kept at Reception until the end of the school day, at the school where the confiscation took place, for the student to collect and the student will be set an after-school detention by the issuing member of staff.
3. Confiscation 3 – the mobile phone is kept at Reception until the end of the school day, at the school where the confiscation took place, for the student to collect and the student will be set an after-school detention by their Head of Year who informs their parent/carer.
4. Confiscation 4 – the mobile phone is kept at Reception until the end of the school day, at the school where the confiscation took place, for the student to collect. The student will be set an internal one-day suspension by the Director of Sixth Form for the following day, and their parent/carer will be informed. The student will need to hand in their phone at reception at the start of the day and collect it at the end.

Students remain at their level of confiscation for the duration of the year for any further infringements of this policy.

Other consequences related to mobile and smartphone use in school:

- If a student refuses to hand over their phone, then a senior member of staff (normally on call) will be contacted to remove the phone.
- If a student refuses to hand over their phone to the senior member of staff, the student is then at risk of escalated consequences i.e. internal suspension, as they are not following staff instructions

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and/or causing wider disruption to learning. In this instance, parents or carers will be contacted to let them know about the incident and consequence.

- In both of the above instances, it will be recorded as a confiscation, even if the student refuses to hand their mobile phone in to any member of staff.
- If a student is misusing their phone, then the school may consider escalated consequences such as internal or external suspension from school. Examples of misusing a phone can include, but is not limited to:
 - recording members of the school community
 - sharing images or videos of the school community
 - using social media to bully (cyber bullying) other students
 - the use of generative AI
 - bringing the school/s into disrepute.
- As part of the schools' Behaviour Policies, staff can search a student and/or their bag for a mobile phone, should staff suspect that the student has been misusing their mobile phone, claim not to have one, despite it being seen by staff, or concerns about students having more than one mobile phone.

Further support for mobile and smartphone uses amongst children and young people

The government introduced the Online Safety Act in 2023, which details the laws that protect children online - [Online Safety Act: explainer - GOV.UK](#). The school will endeavour to support young people who struggle to stay off their screens or who experience poor behaviour from others through their phone. If students are the victim of poor behaviour through their mobile phone, then the school encourages students, parents and/or carers to let members of the pastoral team know and we can offer advice on potential consequences which the school can employ, advice on the support that can be provided, or whether contacting external agencies is appropriate. We will also support students who may need to use their phone for specific circumstances, such as medical checks, on an individual basis in agreement with the Director of JMF6.

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