Mobile Phone-Free School Policy
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Parents and Carers

1. Why is the school introducing a mobile phone-free environment?
In line with guidance from the Department for Education, schools are expected to be mobile phone-free by default.

We are introducing this policy to:

- Maintain calm, focused classrooms
- Reduce distractions and disruption
- Prevent cyberbullying and peer-on-peer issues during the school day
- Strengthen safeguarding
- Promote positive face-to-face social interaction

Our priority is ensuring a safe, supportive and high-achieving learning environment for all students.

2. When does the policy start?

- From 13th April – Full enforcement for all KS3 students.
- Current KS4 students – Phased implementation during the remainder of this academic year.
- From 2nd September 2026 – Full implementation across the whole school.

3. What does "mobile phone-free" mean?
It means:

- Phones and smart devices must not be seen or heard at any time on school grounds.
- Devices must not be visible on a student's person (including blazer or trouser pockets).
- This applies during lessons, break times, lunchtime, between lessons, breakfast club and after-school sessions.

Devices covered include:

- Mobile phones
- Smartwatches
- Any smart technology capable of sending/receiving messages
- Devices that can record audio or video

4. Can my child bring a phone for travelling to and from school?
If a child needs a phone for safety while travelling, it must be switched off before entering the school site and remain out of sight at all times. If it is seen or heard, it will be confiscated.

5. What happens if a student breaks the policy?
If the policy is breached:

- The device will be confiscated.
- The minimum sanction will be parental collection at a time convenient to you.
- Repeated breaches will result in longer confiscations and escalating behaviour sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

The Department for Education makes clear that headteachers are fully supported in confiscating mobile phones where policies are breached, provided this is proportionate.

6. Is confiscation lawful?
Yes.

Schools have the legal authority to confiscate mobile phones as a disciplinary sanction. The law protects staff from liability for loss or damage to confiscated items, provided they act lawfully and reasonably.

When determining sanctions, the school considers proportionality and individual circumstances (including age and SEND).

7. What if my child has a medical need requiring a device?
Exceptions will only be granted for verified medical reasons.

- Requests must be supported by appropriate medical evidence.
- Authorisation must be given in writing by the Headteacher.
- Usage will be strictly limited to what is medically necessary.

8. How can I contact my child during the school day?
If you need to contact your child urgently:

- Please contact the school or college office.
- Messages will be passed on promptly.

If a student needs to contact home, this will be facilitated through the school office.

This ensures communication remains safe, supervised and appropriate.

9. Why is the school phasing this for KS4?
We recognise that current KS4 students are in examination courses and may be accustomed to previous arrangements.

The phased approach allows:

- Clear communication
- Adjustment time
- Fair and structured transition

From September 2026, all year groups will follow the same expectations.

10. What if other schools allow phones?
The Department for Education advises that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.

Our decision reflects what we believe is best for our students' learning, wellbeing and safety.

11. Will this policy really make a difference?
Evidence and school experience show that removing phones from the school day:

- Improves focus and academic engagement
- Reduces incidents of bullying and online conflict
- Supports better social interaction
- Strengthens behaviour and routines

Our aim is not to punish, but to create the best possible environment for every child to succeed.

12. How can parents support this policy?
You can support us by:

- Discussing the policy with your child
- Reinforcing expectations at home
- Ensuring devices are not visible on arrival to school
- Encouraging positive habits around screen use

Consistency between home and school makes a significant difference.