

FAQ - Phone Free School

Are mobile phones banned on the school site for all students?

Yes, from the start of term – Tuesday 5th September – we are a phone free school. This means that no phones should be seen or heard from entering the school site at 8.15 a.m. throughout the day, until students leave site at the end of their day.

Does this include social times such as break and lunch?

Yes, at all times during the school day.

Can my child use their phone in the toilets or the canteen?

No, not anywhere on the school site. We are a phone free school.

Does this include smart watches?

Smartwatches are allowed to be worn to enable students to know the time. They should be disconnected from mobile phones and cannot be used to fulfil any function of a mobile phone.

Under what circumstances will they be confiscated?

If the phone is used, seen, or heard in any area on the school site then it will be confiscated by allocated staff.

Who can confiscate phones from students?

Senior staff and pastoral staff will be directed to confiscate phones from students during lesson times.

During social times, any member of staff who has been given permission by the Headteacher, will be permitted to confiscate phones.

How will you confiscate phones?

Allocated staff will direct students to place their phone in a secure storage bag which is clearly labelled. These will then be stored securely in the focus room until the end of the day.

Can my child still bring their phone into school?

We would advise against this, but if students do so it is at their own risk. If they choose to do so, they must be switched off and securely stored in their school bag and not removed at all during the school day.

What if I need to contact my child urgently?

If you need an urgent message passed on to your child, you may call our school reception and the message will be relayed to your child. We will ensure that phone lines are maintained, and parents are able to speak to staff quickly.

What if my child needs to contact home?

If a student does need to contact home our pastoral team and administration team will support this where appropriate.

My child needs their phone for medical purposes – will this be allowed?

We are aware of a small number of students who use their phone to support their medical needs. These students will, of course, be allowed to use their phone for these purposes and all staff will be made aware of these students.

Will the phone be confiscated if it is in my child's pocket?

It should be switched off during the school day and stored securely in their bag. If it is seen or heard, regardless of whether it is being used or not, it will be confiscated.

Will my child get a warning first?

No. If the phone is used, seen, or heard during the school day it will be confiscated. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that this does not happen.

When will my child get their phone back?

On the first occasion, phones can be collected by the student from their Head of Year at the end of the school day. If this happens again, we will expect to have a discussion with parents / carers prior to the student collecting their phone. If a student persistently breaches this policy, this will be viewed as defiance and escalation up the behaviour ladder will commence.

Can schools confiscate phones?

Yes, schools are allowed to confiscate items that '*the school considers harmful or detrimental to school discipline and safety*' (Department for Education).

Can my child use their phone to photograph homework or do class work?

From September, students will be given a planner in which homework can be noted and their timetable stored.

My child has used their phone for reading / calculator / educational apps in school. How will you manage this?

We will ensure that students are all able to access lessons without the use of their phone. All students should have a scientific calculator as part of their school equipment. Subjects will continue to use online platforms to support learning, but these will be accessed on PC / tablets in school.

Do other schools allow phones?

The majority of schools in the local area have adopted a similar policy to ours.

Are they banned for staff?

During school hours, staff will use phones for work purposes e.g., emails and register