

28 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mobile Phone Use in School – Policy Update

Thank you for sharing your views on mobile phone use in school. We greatly appreciate your input and the thoughtful discussions on this topic.

As part of our approach to educating students on responsible phone use, all students have watched the documentary *Swipe* and participated in workshops and assemblies on the benefits and risks of mobile technology. Following this, we have reviewed our policy and made some adaptations.

We understand mobiles are essential for communication between parents and children, particularly for travel arrangements. Also, our focus is on teaching responsible phone use rather than imposing restrictions, and we recognise the high level of responsibility our students already demonstrate. Therefore, we are not currently introducing a full ban, but we are extending the limits upon their use in school. Our focus is on promoting a balanced and positive school experience. We want to encourage meaningful face-to-face interactions, play, and a school environment where students can fully participate in enriching experiences.

What is the new policy?

- Students may still carry phones to school, but if a phone is seen in use, during the school day, anywhere on the site without permission, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. A second incident will require parents to collect the phone.
- If, at break or lunch time, a student needs to check their phone or send a quick message to a parent during that time, they should ask the teacher on duty, who will grant permission.

Additionally, we will be writing to our feeder primary schools to inform them that smartphones are not needed when joining Year 7. Based on research, we actively recommend against students having smartphones at this stage. In school, Year 7 and 8 students will not be required to use smartphones for learning.

As requested, we will soon send parents a guide to help manage phone use at home. We recognise this can be challenging, so we will also invite parents to workshops on setting restrictions and using apps to monitor and control usage. We hope this will provide useful support in ensuring students use their devices safely and responsibly.

Thank you for supporting our balanced approach to mobile phone use in school. If you have any questions or feedback, please get in touch.

Very best wishes



Solomon Berhane
Headteacher



Sophie Thomas
Head of School



Nigel Jewell
Deputy Headteacher

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6