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Executive Principal:
Mr R Samra B.A., M.A.

23rd May 2025

Bilton School: Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Parent / Carer,

As our transition activities are fully underway, staff at Bilton and I are looking forward to meeting you and your child on Transition-day and the evening on the 2nd July 2025. In advance of this date, I would like to inform you of the school's policy around mobile phones, notably Smart-Phones (those that are internet enabled with multiple functions; access to social media apps and cameras) and the rationale for this.

We take the education, safety and well-being of our students very seriously; our professional experience and knowledge has led us to believe that smartphones are affecting our young people's education and health. Bilton School is working closely with its partner schools in the Stowe Valley Trust and primaries on reviewing policies around mobile phones.

We understand they have many uses, and you may have already purchased one for your child. Please read below for the school's expectations for Year 7 students (and those for the rest of the school).

There is a not seen-not heard policy for all mobile phones in school. (All years)

From July 2025 this will extend to smartwatches. All classroom use of phones (eg, use of learning apps or quizzes) will stop. Phones are currently confiscated on sight or if heard in school; they are returned to students at the end of the day on a first 'offense'. This will continue to be the case.

If there is a further incident, the phone will be confiscated, and parents will be asked to come into school to collect the phone. After this point, all times the phone is seen, it will be confiscated, and parents will be asked to collect the phone. This will reset at the start of each half term.

The 'not seen or heard' rule will apply to all year groups. If a Year 7 student has their phone confiscated, and it is a smartphone, the school will contact parents immediately and expect them to collect. Smartphones will be prohibited for Year 7 students.

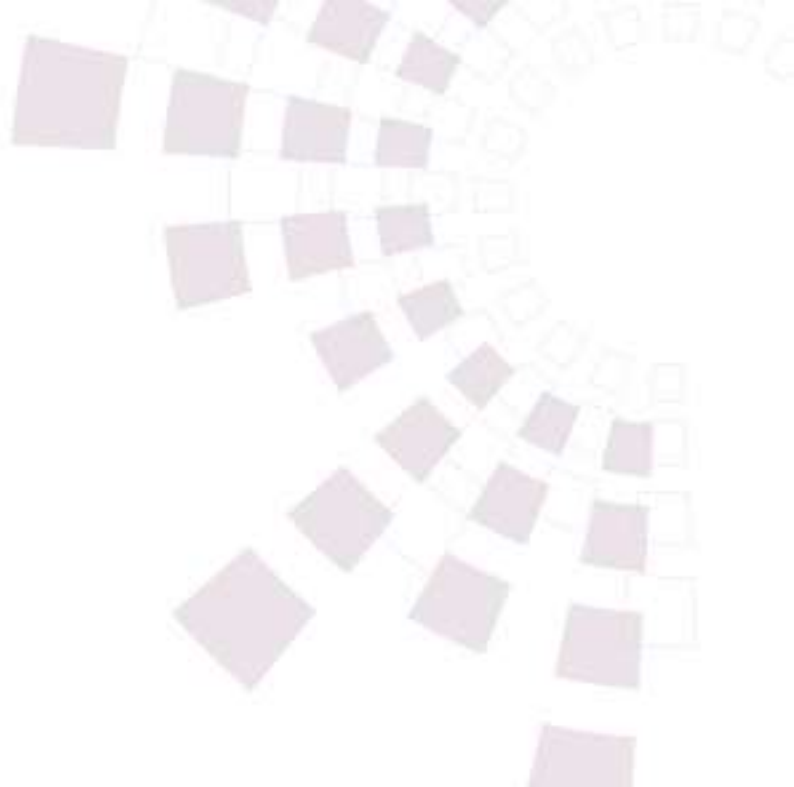
Sixth formers have designated areas to use phones for study or educational purposes.



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From September 2025:

Year 7 should not bring a smartphone OR smartwatch to school. They will be prohibited items.

We are currently weighing up our options of either using Yonder pouches or 'dumbphones' i.e. phones which do not have any internet access. We will update you regarding the final decision before the end of this academic year. Any emergency contact with your child can be done using the school's main number. A member of staff will be able to relay messages, as would previously happen in primary school.

We are rolling this policy out from Year 7 and subsequent years. It will be reviewed at the end of Year 9 for your child's year group.

Thank you so much for your support on this matter. We will be inviting all parents to a meeting at the school to discuss the dangers of Smartphones on our young people; a date will shortly be confirmed.

Please find attached an information sheet that has been adapted for our Year 6 parents, which outlines some of the rationale behind our new policy and offer further information.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Delves
Headteacher, Bilton School