

# Mobile Phones

## Frequently asked questions

### **1. How will my child know if they have a detention, or if their detention has been upscaled?**

Detention information is displayed on the noticeboard outside student office. Students are expected to check their own information. If a break detention is upscaled to a lunchtime, a member of staff will inform the student during their period 3 lesson. If a lunchtime detention is upscaled to an after school detention, this will not be set on the same day in order to give parents notice.

### **2. Is there a resource for children who like to do their homework online during break and lunchtime?**

There are 10 PCs and a printer available every breaktime and lunchtime in the Library for students to access. There is also Homework Club (Library) and Study Room (F17C) every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday after school where students can access PCs.

### **3. How will my child contact me to arrange collection of their phone if it is confiscated on a second occasion?**

On the first occasion of a phone being confiscated, a ClassCharts message is sent to parents to inform of the confiscation and advise that the student will be able to collect their phone at the end of the day. This message will state that if there is a further confiscation in that academic year the phone will need to be collected by a parent/ carer.

If a second (or further) occasion arises, a ClassCharts message will be sent to parents to advise of the confiscation and inform that the phone needs to be collected.

If your child follows the school procedures their phone will remain in their possession.

### **4. How can parents communicate a change of plan to students?**

Parents can contact the school office on 01926 812560, and leave a message with reception. This message will be passed on to the student.

Students will have access to their phones from 3.20pm for after school arrangements.

### **5. Why are phones required to be in bags and not blazer pockets?**

Evidence tells us that the average teenager receives 237 notifications a day on their smartphone, and 2 in 3 students aged 11-17 'often' or 'sometimes' find it difficult to put down their smartphone (Common Sense Media 2023). When phones are in bags, they are no longer within arm's reach, therefore ensuring that they are not tempted to check their phone and become distracted from a task or conversation.

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### **6. Can students make a phone call from the bus bay if they are running late or miss their bus?**

Students are allowed to use their phones in an appropriate way (e.g. checking the news, completing home learning) after the 3.20pm bell. It is appropriate for students to send a message to a parent, and if they need to make a phone call they should speak to one of the members of staff on duty in the area who will give permission.

### **7. Will students receive a warning before a consequence is issued?**

No. If a mobile phone, smartwatch or headphones are seen outside of a student's bag, or heard in use, they will be confiscated immediately. All students have received a letter outlining this procedure and there will be posters visible across school site reminding them of this process.

### **8. If a student needs to use their phone for mental health support (e.g. using Kooth), is there somewhere they can go?**

The Safeguarding office is on the First Floor of the main block and support can be offered from this location. If contact with a particular mental health service is required, the Safeguarding Team will do their best to facilitate this in a safe environment.

### **9. How can students contact home? Is there a specific room?**

If contact with home is required, students should go to Student Office at break or lunchtime and request this. In most cases, a text message will be sent. If a student needs to speak to a parent, this will be arranged and a space provided to do so away from others if required. Students will need to communicate this with staff in Student Office.

### **10. Why aren't students allowed to have smartwatches if phones are turned off (e.g. to track activity and tell the time)?**

As Smartwatches are web-enabled, messages and calls can create a distraction from learning. They can also create the temptation to check a phone, leading to a confiscation. A study from the University of California Irvine (2024) found that it takes on average 24 minutes to refocus on a task after interruption.

### **11. Have the school considered the security of phones in bags when they are unattended?**

Yes. Students have their bags with them for the majority of the school day. In lessons where students do not have their bags, there are arrangements for valuable items to be handed in or doors locked.

There are a limited number of lockers still available in school; please enquire via email if you would like to apply for a locker. If your child no longer uses their locker, please encourage them to return the key in return for their £5 deposit, and then this locker can be reallocated to another student.

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### **12. Will students be checked for phones during tests or exams?**

There are strict rules governing the use of any web-enabled technology in an exam setting, and students are required to leave phones in bags during these times, as with all other times of the school day.

### **13. Will students be 'patted down' to search for mobile phones?**

No. We are a 'No Hands On' school and students are never 'patted down' or physically touched during a search, and there will be no difference in the implementation of the mobile phone rules.

### **14. My child doesn't carry a bag; where should they keep their smartphone?**

All students should carry a bag to school in order to bring their required equipment (the list is included in the Parent Guide). If a student forgets their bag, they can borrow a drawstring bag from the Head of Year office in order to store their phone. Students will not be allowed to carry a mobile phone in their pockets under any circumstances.

### **15. If a member of staff sees my child's phone out of their bag, but they were not using it, can it be confiscated?**

Yes. The rule states that phones must be switched off and in bags, so if a mobile phone is seen outside of a bag it will be confiscated.