



Mobile Phone Policy

This policy refers to both Wellington Senior School

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Website	Yes

Following the DFE guidance, [*Mobile phones in schools \(January 2026\)*](#), Wellington School has revised its approach to the use of digital technology and ensures that pupils up to and including Year 11 do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

The school day is defined as 8.25am to 4.45pm, Monday – Friday.

Pupils in years 7 to 11 will not have access to a phone at any time throughout the school day. All phones brought onto school site will be stored in locked, signal-blocking pouches and stored in their bags. Pupils will place their phones into their pouches whilst being supervised by tutors at 8:25am each day. Pupils will then be able to unlock their pouches from 4:30pm onwards at various unlocking sites situated around the site.

1. Lower School (Year 7 and 8, day and boarding)

The School is committed to promoting a smartphone-free environment for pupils in Years 7 and 8, ensuring that parents do not feel under pressure to purchase a smartphone for their child. Where families have concerns regarding travel to and from school, or other arrangements that may necessitate a mobile phone, pouches will be available on an opt-in basis to enable pupils to bring a device into school securely. In such cases, parental permission must be obtained via an online form. All pupils, regardless of whether they bring a mobile phone to school, are required to sign a Student Mobile Phone Agreement outlining behavioural and usage expectations.

2. Upper School (Year 9-11, day and boarding)

All pupils in years 9 to 11 will be issued with a phone pouch. Any pupil who does not wish to bring a phone to school will need to provide written confirmation of this from their parent who will be required to complete an online form.

All pupils, regardless of whether they bring a mobile phone to school, are required to sign a Student Mobile Phone Agreement outlining behavioural and usage expectations.

All pupils (Year 7 – 11)

- Pupils are not permitted to use devices to pay for items in the café. They should bring cash or a bank card.

- Pupils can go to Reception and request permission to make a call or send a message if it is in an emergency or regarding transport home.
- If a pupil needs to leave the school site early for an appointment or fixture the usual parental permissions will need to be in place and they will be able to unlock their pouch at Reception.

3. Inclusive adaptations and access to other technologies for Y7-11

Pupils are not permitted to bring smartwatches, laptops or other internet enabled technologies to school unless authorised by the Head of Learning Support/Head of EAL and a Deputy Head.

SEN, neurodiversity and medical issues may be considered as possible reasons to make adaptations and permission to bring any internet enabled item to support learning, organisation or health can be sought via the relevant Head of Year and/ or the Head of Learning Support.

4. Sixth Form

Sixth Form students are required to set a positive example and must not use their phones in front of any pupils in years 7 – 11. Sixth Formers will only be able to use their phones in the Sixth Form Centre, for educational purposes in the top floor of Dukes Study Centre, in the middle floor of Dukes during private study periods only or with permission of their teacher/tutor in the classroom.

Sixth Form students are trusted to bring laptops or a tablet to school and use them for educational purposes in classrooms, the Study Centre, or the Sixth Form Centre.

5. Boarders

All boarders will be issued with a device pouch and are expected to follow the same procedures regarding mobile device use as day pupils within their respective year groups.

International boarders in Years 7 to 11 may make arrangements with Boarding House staff to facilitate contact with their families during break or lunchtime where time differences necessitate additional flexibility.

The Head of Boarding will determine appropriate screen time limits for evenings and weekends. These limits will vary according to the age and developmental stage of the pupils.

All boarders are required to hand in their mobile phones overnight during the week. This measure is in place to promote healthy sleep habits, which are essential for effective learning, wellbeing, and academic progress.

In addition, use of school Wi-Fi by boarders during the evenings will be monitored. This monitoring forms part of a broader approach to ensure a balanced use of technology, supporting both appropriate communication with family and friends and the promotion of healthy sleep routines and responsible screen time habits.

6. School Trips

The use of mobile phones during school trips will be determined by the Trip Leader, who will consider the nature, purpose, and accommodation arrangements of the trip. Trips should remain enjoyable and social experiences for all pupils and no pupil will be expected to take a mobile phone.

Clear and explicit guidance on mobile phone use will be included within the trip planning documentation and communicated to parents in advance of the trip.

7. Sports Fixtures

To accommodate the variable timings of external sports fixtures and support easy communication, pupils are permitted to bring a mobile phone when travelling to a sports fixtures. For pupils who choose not to bring a mobile phone or do not own a mobile phone, the coach or teacher will take responsibility for communicating any changes in timings directly to parents. Staff will ensure pupils are fully aware of the behavioural expectations regarding mobile phone use while travelling to and from a fixture. Upon arrival at the venue and throughout the matches, mobile phones must not be used to ensure pupils remain focused and engaged.

8. Procedures and Sanctions

Any pupil who attempts to circumvent the pouch system—including failing to declare a mobile device, utilising an alternative or 'burner' phone, or tampering with the pouch mechanism (such as using magnets)—will face significant disciplinary action in line with the Promoting Good Behaviour policy.

In all cases, the school will also endeavour to work with parents and guardians in trying to bring about changes of behaviour and positive screentime management for the pupil.

9. Education and Support

The School recognises the possibility of addiction, and the risks associated with online activity. Pupils receive a comprehensive education about online safety through PSHE and the Tutor/Head of Year.

The School offers guidance to parents and pupils for how blocks and limits can be applied to social media, online content, gaming and instant messaging via MySchoolPortal.

Managing screentime is promoted as a part of our wellbeing framework.

Wellington School Mobile phone agreement

If you are a pupil who plans to bring a mobile phone and/or smart watch to school:

As a pupil, I agree to:

- Bring my Secure Phone Pouch to school each day and use it properly
- Lock my phone in the pouch at tutor time each morning **under supervision**
- Keep the pouch on my person throughout the school day, locked and unopened
- Not tamper with, damage, or attempt to bypass the pouch system in any way
- Hand in my phone to my tutor if I forget my own pouch
- Unlock my pouch only when permitted at the end of the day or at reception when leaving early
- Not bring any unauthorised devices to school
- Understand that breaches of this agreement will result in clear sanctions.

Signed: _____

Pupil Name: _____

Date: _____

If you are a pupil who has chosen not to bring a mobile phone/smart watch to school:

I have chosen **never to bring a mobile phone/smart watch** onto the school premises.

Because of this decision, I am exempt from carrying a school-issued phone pouch.

By signing below, I agree to the following terms:

- I will not bring any mobile phone, smart watch, or cellular device onto the school grounds.
- If my circumstances change and I must bring a phone to school for any reason, I will immediately inform my tutor and request a standard phone pouch.
- If I am found with an unpouched mobile phone on school grounds, it will be immediately confiscated, and I will face a serious school sanction.

Signed: _____

Pupil Name: _____

Date: _____