



Mobile phone policy

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Reviewed by:	Deputy Headteacher	
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1. Introduction and aims

At Kinton High School we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are an important part of everyday life for our pupils, parents and staff, as well as the wider school community. We have also recognised more recently that mobile phones in school are having a negative impact on students' learning. In May 2025, the school signed up to the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' pact which recognises the detrimental effect that Smartphone use is likely to be having on our youngest students. [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

Our policy aims to:

- Promote, and set an example for, safe and responsible phone use
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for pupils, staff, parents and volunteers
- Support the school's other policies, especially those related to safeguarding children and young people and behaviour
- Align with DfE guidance on mobile phones in Secondary Schools (June 2026): [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#) and KCSIE 2026: [Keeping children safe in education 2026: September 2026](#)

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- Risks to child protection, safety and well-being
- Data protection issues
- Potential for educational disruption
- Risk of theft, loss, or damage
- Appropriate use of technology in the classroom

A summary of the DfE guidance: Schools should operate as mobile phone-free environments. Students must not access or use mobile phones, smart watches or similar personal communication devices during the school day, including before registration, during lessons, between lessons, at break and lunchtime. Devices must be stored in accordance with school procedures. Breaches of this policy may result in confiscation and other behaviour sanctions. (DfE, June 2026)

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff, and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy.

Volunteers, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or are aware of, a breach of this policy.

The Headteacher, in liaison with the Deputy Headteachers, are responsible for monitoring the policy every year, reviewing it, and holding staff and pupils accountable for its implementation.

2.2 Governors

Will review this policy in accordance with the review of the school's overall behaviour policy on an annual basis.

3. Use of mobile phones by staff

3.1 Personal mobile phones

Staff (including volunteers, contractors and anyone else otherwise engaged by the school) are not permitted to make or receive calls, or send texts, while children are present or during contact time in lessons. Use of personal mobile phones must be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the school where pupils are not present (such as the staff room).

There may be circumstances in which it's appropriate for a member of staff to have use of their phone during contact time. For instance:

- Needing to use MFA for work (for example to log into CPOMS or school network)
- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members

The headteacher will decide on a case-by-basis whether to allow for special arrangements.

If special arrangements are not deemed necessary, school staff can use the school office number 01926 640465 as a point of emergency contact.

3.2 Data protection

Staff must not use their personal mobile phones to process personal data, or any other confidential school information. Detailed guidance on data protection can be found in the school's Data Protection Policy. Personal mobile phones are used to enable multi-factor authentication when logging into the school network and staff are regularly asked to do so using the Microsoft MFA App.

3.3 Safeguarding

As referenced in the school's Safeguarding Policy:

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or pupils, including connecting through social media and messaging apps.

Staff must avoid publicising their contact details on any social media platform or website, to avoid unwanted contact by parents or pupils.

Staff should avoid using their mobile phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil. If it's necessary to take photos or recordings as part of a lesson/school trip/activity, this must be done using school equipment where possible. If personal devices are used for recording events, the images must be deleted as soon as possible once transferred to the school system. Staff should seek advice from the school's GDPR champion or senior staff if unsure.

3.4 Using personal mobiles for work purposes

The school has bookable mobile phones for use on trips or school events. These should be booked in advance. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for staff to use personal mobile phones for work. Such circumstances may include, but aren't limited to:

- Emergency evacuations
- Supervising off-site trips
- Supervising residential visits
- Emergency contact with external agencies (such as the police or social care) or other similar circumstance

In these circumstances, staff will:

- Use their mobile phones in an appropriate and professional manner, in line with our Staff Code of Conduct.
- Not use their phones to take photographs or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

- Refrain from using their phones to contact parents. If necessary, contact must be made via the school office. If external to the school site, where a member of staff must use their mobile phone to contact a parent in an emergency, the staff phone number must be withheld.

3.5 Sanctions

Staff that fail to adhere to this policy may face disciplinary action.

4. Use of mobile phones by pupils

The school acknowledges that mobile phones are an intrinsic part of modern life and there are many ways in which phones may support the education of its students. There are many apps and websites promoted by school which students can safely use at home or off the school premises. Many students at KHS live a significant distance away from the school and most travel to and from school, on school buses or public transport. **Mobile phones will NOT be required for any lessons. All recommended learning platforms and apps can be used on a tablet or other device. These include the platform identified for home learning (currently MCAS).**

The school allows students to bring mobile phones on site in order that contact can be made to and from parents/ carers during the journeys to and from school. Some of our students are young carers and therefore a vital contact for dependents at home. A small number of students may require reasonable adjustments to monitor health conditions such as diabetes, this will be closely reviewed and monitored.

Mobile phones should not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site during the school day until the end of the day where students walk out of the school gates or embark on the bus. Students may only use mobile phones on the school site after 2:45pm with permission of the staff supervising.

SMARTPHONES are prohibited items in school for Year 7 and Y8 (as of September 2026). The ban on Smartphones in school will roll-out each year at least until the end of Year 9. (exemptions will only apply for medical purposes)

See below for details around how all phones should be stored in school.

In general:

- Students can bring mobile phones on site but they must be turned off on entering the school site (through the gates or as students come off the bus) and placed in their BAGS or LOCKERS not BLAZERS.
- **Smartwatches for all students** must also be kept in away in BAGS OR LOCKERS NOT BLAZERS These items are very expensive and preferably should not be brought into school at all. Watches can be purchased very cheaply and help children learn to tell the time.
- **For years 7-11:** Mobile phones cannot be seen or heard on any part of site, including the school playgrounds and fields, throughout the school day. They will only be permitted after 2:45pm when students may require collection or if the late bus has not turned up. This is at the discretion of the member of staff supervising.
- **For years 12-13:** Mobile phones or airpods cannot be seen or heard across the school site, including the school playgrounds and fields and are only permitted to be used in the sixth form common room or designated study areas.
- Mobiles should be turned off and stored in bags or lockers at all times during the school day.

Mobile phones MAY be used in these circumstances:

- If a student needs to make an emergency call home or take an emergency call after school; in which case, they should speak to a teacher or staff member who can find a suitable place for the call; this will normally be the Student Services, Heads of Year office or the Safeguarding room.

- In KS4 or 5 curriculum lessons where an agreement has been made about the use of a particular app has been agreed by the school. Parents will be informed of this at the start of a course or as relevant and a contract will be made regarding the use of the app in school.
- To check on medical data throughout the day (for example, diabetes monitoring)

Students are able to make calls in an emergency using a landline phone which can be found in Student Services or the offices named above.

The use of Mobile Phones off the school site:

Mobile phones can be useful for students and for staff working with students when off the Kineton High School site and away from the usual routine of the day (during trips, off-site education, sports fixtures for example).

There will be instances whereby students will wish to contact parents regarding arrival times back at the school site, such as during sports fixtures or when the trips' transport arrival time is impacted via traffic.

The trip leader will inform students how mobile phones will be used during the visit/ trip, and these rules will be clearly communicated to students and parents.

The following points serve as guidelines to the use of mobile phones off school site whilst under supervision supervised by of Kineton High School Staff:

- Y7 and Y8 students are not allowed smartphones or smartwatches on any Kineton High School Day Trips unless there is exceptional circumstance of which would need to be clarified with or by the Trip leader.
- Y7 and Y8 students may use their 'dumbphone' on the trip, and it may be prudent to have one for contact with parents/carers if required.
- Other students are allowed to take smartphones and smartwatches on Kineton High School Trips; however, the use of the phone will be directed by the trip leader.
- Students must understand that the smartphones are to be kept in bags at all times on trips, as they would be in school, unless directed by the trip leader.
- No mobile phone (smart or dumb) is allowed out whilst the trip leader is giving direction or instruction.
- If the trip leader deems it necessary to confiscate the mobile phone, this is within authorisation and the trip leader may keep it for as long as they decide necessary. The trip leader would need to lease with parents should the confiscation need to be for a prolonged period of time (for example if it was a residential such as a ski trip).

Students and parents are advised that any poor use of a mobile phone on a trip could lead to a permanent ban of having the device in school.

4.1 Sanctions

If a student is seen using a mobile phone; has a phone in their hand or in their blazer (ie is visible on their person) or the sound of a phone is discernible by a member of staff:

1. **The phone will be confiscated immediately** by the member of staff alerted to its use (Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006)
2. **The member of staff will ask the student to turn the phone off and hand it to them.** It will be handed into Students Services where it will be logged and put in a plastic wallet.

If a student contests a request, staff may ask the student to show them their mobile phone 'pickups' during that school day to prove it has not been used (if the phone is internet enabled).

3a. For a first offence, the phone will be handed back at the end of the day it was handed in.

3b. **Smartphones:** From September 2026 for Y7 and Y8, if a student has a Smartphone, it will be confiscated as normal and a call will be made to parents to collect. It will be viewed as a prohibited item.

NB. Mobile phones and Air pods/Smartwatches are treated as separate items. Air pods and Smartwatches come under 'accessories' but the same policy and sanctions are applied, e.g. if air pods are seen they are confiscated, and if they are seen a second time the confiscation will be for 24 hours overnight.

4. For a further offence within a school half term, **the phone will be kept for 24 hours** before being handed back to the child at the end of the following school day. If this happens on a Friday, the phone will require collecting by a parent prior to the weekend or it will be retained until the following Monday.

5. Persistent offences will be considered as serious breaches of the school behaviour policy and could result in students having to hand in a phone every day. Students and parents will need to agree to the student submitting their phone to a secure store which will retain the phone until the end of each day.

6. Refusal to hand in a mobile phone will be taken very seriously as a breach of the behaviour policy and will result in an internal exclusion (minimum) and parents will be contacted immediately. The student is expected to hand their phone in when placed in the internal exclusion space. Staff will report the defiance immediately to a senior member of staff on duty and the matter will be followed up as soon as possible.

- The internal exclusion will often take place on the day after due to booking processes and informing parents. Students are always encouraged to make the right decision and hand the mobile phone in for 24 hours. This will often lead to the internal exclusion being cancelled.
- Should there be continued breaches of this policy by a student; the issue will be escalated through the school's behaviour policy.

Certain types of behaviours, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexting or constructing of fake imagery or nudity; accessing pornography or distributing images
- Threats of violence or assault or online bullying
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

Under the DfE's guidance on searching, screening and confiscation, staff at KHS have the power to search pupils' mobile phones. At KHS, this search will normally be carried out by senior staff or members of the pastoral and welfare teams. If there is reason to believe a phone contains pornographic images, or is being used to commit an offence or cause personal injury it will be searched. Should there be any such material, the phone will be confiscated and parents/carers asked to come and collect or discuss the nature of the content or the device handed to the police for further examination.

5. Use of mobile phones by parents, volunteers and visitors

Parents, visitors and volunteers (including governors and contractors) must adhere to this policy as it relates to staff if they are on the school site during the school day.

This means:

3. Not taking pictures or recordings of pupils, unless it's a public event (such as a school fair), or of their own child
4. Using any photographs or recordings for personal use only, and not posting on social media without consent
5. Not using phones in lessons, or when working with pupils

Parents, visitors and volunteers will be informed of the rules for mobile phone use when they sign in at reception or attend a public event at school.

Parents or volunteers supervising school trips or residential visits must not:

6. Use their phone to make contact with other parents
7. Take photos or recordings of pupils, their work, or anything else which could identify a pupil

Parents or volunteers supervising trips are also responsible for enforcing the school's policy for pupils using their phones, as set out in section 4 above.

Parents must use the school office as the first point of contact if they need to get in touch with their child during the school day. **They must not try to contact their child on his/her personal mobile during the school day unless explicitly requested to by a member of senior staff or the attendance/ welfare officer at the school.**

6. Loss, theft or damage

Students bringing phones to school must ensure that phones are appropriately labelled, and are stored securely when not in use.

Pupils must secure their phones as much as possible, including using passwords or pin codes to protect access to the phone's functions. Staff must also secure their personal phones, as well as any work phone provided to them. Failure by staff to do so could result in data breaches.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while pupils are travelling to and from school.

Confiscated phones will be stored in the Student Services office in a secure, locked, cabinet. Once a phone has been confiscated, the school accepts responsibility for its safety.

Lost phones should be returned to the administration office or Student Services. The school will then attempt to contact the owner.

7. Monitoring and review

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy has a positive impact of pupils' education, behaviour and welfare. When reviewing the policy, the school will take into account:

8. Feedback from parents and pupils
9. Feedback from teachers
10. Records of behaviour and safeguarding incidents
11. Relevant advice from the Department for Education, the local authority or other relevant organisations

Related policies:

- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- Home Learning Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- KCSIE 2026