

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

SMART DEVICE FREE

YEAR 7 - Effective September 2026

Our Policy

From September 2026, our Year 7 cohort will be smart device free during the school day. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds, fitness trackers and any other internet-enabled or messaging-capable wearable device.

No phones or smart devices must be seen or heard on site from the moment a student enters the school gates until they are dismissed from their final lesson of the day. This rule also applies during all after-school clubs and activities.

Devices should be left at home where possible. Where a phone is needed for the journey to and from school, it must be switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

Basic "brick" phones (call and text only, no internet or apps) remain permitted for students who need a device for safety on their journey to and from school.

Why we are making this change

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Research consistently links adolescent social media use to increased rates of anxiety, depression, and poor self-esteem. Reducing smartphone exposure during the school day supports healthier emotional development and positive relationships with peers.

Sleep & Cognitive Development

Phone use, especially social media and messaging before bed, disrupts adolescent sleep patterns. Quality sleep is essential for memory consolidation, emotional regulation, and brain development in young teens.

Focus & Academic Performance

Studies show that even the presence of a phone in a pocket reduces cognitive capacity. By removing this distraction, we create space for deeper learning, stronger concentration, and better learning.

Face-to Face Social Skills

Unstructured time at school is vital for building real-world friendships, resilience, and communication skills. A phone-free environment encourages students to engage meaningfully with peers and their surroundings.

Contacting your child during the school day

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please do so only in the event of a genuine emergency.

Please telephone the school office on 01932 349301 and a member of staff will pass your message on or arrange for your child to be brought to the office.

If your child needs to contact you during the school day, they can do so via Student Services, where staff will support them to make the call.

Consequences for breaches

Any phone or smart device that is seen or heard on the school site during the day will be confiscated.

- If a student refuses to hand in their device, parents/carers will be contacted and expected to visit the school to collect the phone in person
- After two mobile phone infringements, the parent/carers will be expected to collect the phone from the school before 4pm
- After three mobile phone infringements, parents/carers will be expected to attend a meeting with school staff to help us avoid any further issues and support your child going forward.