

Bishop Challoner Catholic College 	Next Review	September 2027
	Review Period	Annual
	Principal Reviewed	September 2026
	Website Published	September 2026
	Current Status	Complete
	Staff Owner	S Clarke
	Government/DfE Requirement	Good Practice

Mobile Phone Policy

Bishop Challoner Catholic College

Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Statement

At Bishop Challoner Catholic College, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment where every student can flourish academically, socially and spiritually. Mobile phones have the potential to distract from learning, negatively impact behaviour and wellbeing, and increase safeguarding risks. This policy sets out the school's expectations regarding the possession and use of mobile phones by students.

This policy reflects the Department for Education's guidance on mobile phones in schools and supports our Behaviour Policy by ensuring that students remain focused on learning throughout the school day.

The School adopts a "phones away for the day" approach, ensuring that mobile phones do not interrupt learning, social interaction or the wider life of the school.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Promote a calm, focused and disruption-free learning environment.
- Minimise distractions during the school day.
- Support positive behaviour and student wellbeing.
- Encourage face-to-face communication and healthy social interaction.
- Reduce safeguarding risks associated with the inappropriate use of mobile devices.
- Provide clear expectations for students, parents and staff.

Scope

This policy applies to all students at Bishop Challoner Catholic College during the school day and whenever students are on the school site or participating in school activities where this policy has been applied.

Expectations

Students may bring a mobile phone to school if parents or carers wish them to have one for their journey to and from school.

Once students enter the school site:

- Mobile phones must be switched off before entering the school grounds.
- Mobile phones must remain switched off and completely out of sight throughout the entire school day.
- Mobile phones must not be seen, used, checked or heard anywhere on the school site.
- **Smartwatches and other wearable communication devices are not permitted as an alternative to a mobile phone. Students must not use a smartwatch or similar device to send or receive messages, make or receive calls, access the internet or use any communication functions during the school day. Where a smartwatch has these capabilities, it must be stored out of sight for the duration of the school day.**
- Students may only use a mobile phone where explicit permission has been given by a member of staff or where it is required as part of an agreed medical need or reasonable adjustment.

Sixth Form Students

Sixth Form students are expected to model the highest standards of conduct and responsible use of technology.

Mobile phones may only be used by Sixth Form students within the designated **Sixth Form Social Study Area** during authorised non-teaching time.

Mobile phones must not be used in corridors, classrooms, the library, dining areas shared with younger students, outside spaces or elsewhere on the school site.

Where a Sixth Form student uses a mobile phone outside the designated permitted area, or during lesson time without authorisation, this will be treated as a breach of this policy and the same sanctions and consequences outlined in this policy will apply.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) – Sixth Form

To support independent learning, Sixth Form students may bring an appropriate personal device, such as a laptop or tablet, for educational purposes where this has been approved by the school and is used in accordance with staff instructions and the school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

A mobile phone is not considered a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) for the purposes of teaching and learning. Mobile phones must not be used as a substitute for a laptop or tablet during lessons or private study, except where

explicit permission has been given by a member of staff or where this forms part of an agreed reasonable adjustment or medical need.

Students remain responsible for the security and safe use of any personal device brought into school. The School accepts no liability for loss, theft or damage to personal devices brought onto the premises.

All personal devices used in school must comply with the College's Acceptable Use Agreement, Online Safety Policy and Behaviour Policy.

Sanctions and Consequences

The use of a mobile phone, smartwatch or other prohibited communication device during the school day is a breach of the schools Behaviour Policy.

If a student is seen using, checking, displaying or allowing a mobile phone or other prohibited communication device to be visible during the school day:

1. A member of staff will instruct the student to hand over the device immediately.
2. The device will be confiscated and stored securely by the school.
3. Parents or carers will be informed that the device has been confiscated.
4. The device must be collected by a parent or carer from the school reception at an agreed time. Devices will not be returned directly to students.
5. A behaviour sanction will be applied in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Failure to hand over a mobile phone, smartwatch or other prohibited communication device when instructed by a member of staff will be treated as a refusal to follow a reasonable instruction and may result in a more serious sanction in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

Repeated breaches of this policy may result in escalating behaviour sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Searches

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a mobile phone, smartwatch or other electronic device contains prohibited material or has been used in a way that may place students or staff at risk, authorised staff may search, examine or erase data from the device where permitted under current legislation and in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and statutory guidance.

Safeguarding

The College recognises that mobile phones, smartwatches and other connected devices can present safeguarding concerns, including:

- Unauthorised photography or video recording.
- Cyberbullying.
- Access to inappropriate content.
- Unauthorised communication during the school day.
- Circumvention of the School's mobile phone expectations through wearable technology.

This policy supports the School's safeguarding responsibilities by reducing these risks and promoting a safe and respectful learning environment.

Responsibilities of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Discuss this policy with their child.
- Reinforce the expectation that mobile phones and smartwatches are not used during the school day except where this policy specifically permits.
- Ensure their child understands the consequences of failing to follow this policy.
- Contact the College reception if urgent communication with their child is required during the school day.

Students who need to contact home during the school day should do so through the College reception.

Responsibilities of Students

Students are expected to:

- Follow this policy at all times.
- Keep their mobile phone switched off and stored securely in their school bag throughout the school day.
- Ensure that smartwatches and other wearable communication devices are not used during the school day and are not used as a substitute for a mobile phone.

- Hand over any prohibited device immediately if requested by a member of staff.
- Respect the School's expectations, which are designed to support learning, wellbeing and positive relationships.

Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

The College recognises that some students may require access to a mobile phone or similar device because of a medical condition, disability or specific educational need. Any reasonable adjustments will be agreed in advance, recorded appropriately and reviewed as necessary.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance or College procedures.

Linked Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- SEND Policy
- Equality Policy