



Lancaster
High School

Ambition • Kindness • Service

Mobile Devices Policy

2026 - 2027



THE BAY
LEARNING TRUST



Document Control

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Date of next review	No later than September 2027, in line with the government's commitment to revise guidance following its annual behaviour survey.
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1. Rationale

- Lancaster High School operates as a mobile phone free school in line with Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 which places a statutory duty on schools in England to have regard to government guidance on mobile phones
- The school's policy is framed by the DfE guidance: Mobile Phones in Schools.
- Mobile phones and all smart devices with similar functionality (including smart watches and devices that can message, record, video or receive notifications) are prohibited throughout the entire school day — covering lessons, time between lessons, break and lunchtime
- This applies to all pupils, staff and visitors while on school premises
- The policy should be read alongside the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026
- At school, we have a duty of care to take steps to ensure that children are safe. We take this duty very seriously
- National research tells us that unsupervised usage of mobile devices can lead to issues with Child Protection, exposure to inappropriate content, exploitation, child on child abuse, mental health and well-being, safety and staff protection. Other risks can also be a negative impact on learning and a decrease in social skills and personal interaction.

Enforcement

- Staff are empowered to apply consistent sanctions, including confiscation and detention, where the policy is breached, in line with DfE guidance and the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Confiscation must comply with the DfE's powers set out in the Education Act 1996
- If a pupil breaches these rules the device will be confiscated and passed to the school office at reception. Devices that are confiscated will be placed into a locked cabinet to be collected at the end of the day. Where a device is confiscated, a B3 behaviour point will be issued to the pupil
- Where repeated incidents of phone confiscations take place or there is a serious breach of this policy, pupils must hand in their mobile phones at the office at the start of each day. The device will be returned to them at the end of the day
- Refusal to hand over a mobile device which has been seen or heard will result in the pupil being placed in Impact.

Expectations

- 1.1 Devices cannot be seen or used on school grounds. 'Smart' watches such as the Apple Watch can be worn and used as a watch but pupils cannot use their smart watches for any function of a mobile phone
- 1.2 Devices should be switched off (not on silent mode) and kept out of view by all stakeholders for the duration of the day
- 1.3 Devices must not be taken into examinations. In accordance with JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) rules, if a candidate is found to have taken a device into an exam room they will be subject to a penalty and possible disqualification.

Exceptions

- Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with a disability or medical need under the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014 (e.g. a pupil using a smartphone to monitor blood sugar levels)
- Staff multi-factor verification
- Separate arrangements may apply for off-site visits and residentials outside of the school day.

2. Emergencies

- 3.1 If a pupil needs to contact their parents/guardians, they will be allowed to use a school phone and should go to the school office to organise this which will be facilitated by On Call staff
- 3.2 If parents need to contact children urgently, they should contact the school office and a message will be relayed promptly.

3. Responsibility for mobile phones

School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile devices. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile devices are properly insured

The Headteacher's decision on all matters relating to mobile communication devices protocol is final.