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## POLICY ON:

## ***Mobile Devices***

Member of Staff Responsible for the Policy:	<i>Deputy Headteacher (Students)</i>
Date on which this Policy was last reviewed:	<i>Nov 2024</i>
Approved by the Governing Body	<i>Nov 2024</i>
Signed:	<i>Martin Drew, Chair of Governors Andrew Skelding, Headteacher</i>
Date of next review:	<i>November 2026</i>
Dissemination of the Policy:	<i>Staff Parents and Carers Governors</i>

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We are a **mobile phone free school**, and have been now for over six years. We have taken the decision that mobile phones must never be seen or heard within school, anywhere on the school site and walking to/from or at the playing fields. The same applies to smart watches, speakers and other such electronic devices.

Many parents have voiced concern about the growing negative influence of persistent use of mobile phones, unregulated access to the internet and the risks young people take on social media.

This decision has been taken to:

- ✓ Give pupils a phone free environment, without distraction, in which to learn
- ✓ To give pupils the space to develop social skills and friendships
- ✓ To reduce the threat of unkind messages and the threat posed by social media
- ✓

We expect your support for our aim of making school a safe space in which pupils can be safe and happy away from the pressures and temptations created by mobile phones.

### Contacting your child

If parents have an emergency and need to contact their child, then they should do this by the normal school channels. This is by phoning the school reception and the school is then responsible for giving the message to the pupil.

Similarly, if a pupil needs to contact home, then they can do so by going to reception before school, during morning break, lunchtime or after school.

If we have confiscated your child's mobile phone they will be able to ask student reception to pass on any urgent messages to parents/carers for the period that their phone is confiscated. This is the pupil's responsibility.

Parents will not be notified a mobile phone has been confiscated unless a pupil approaches student reception to ask for this to happen.

## Procedure

Pupils found using mobile phones, smart watches, speakers and other such electronic devices (including text messaging and silent phoning) or whose phone or Smart watch rings on the school site will have their phone or Smart watch confiscated.

The phone, smart watch, speaker or electronic device is then locked away in the school safe and will only be returned to a pupil, parent or carer only on a Monday each week to avoid continual disruption to the school week.

If, a phone, Smart watch, speaker and other such electronic device is confiscated on a Monday, then it will be a further week before this is returned. Pupils will also have headphones confiscated as their use is prohibited unless they are directed to use them in lesson, otherwise they must remain in a pupil's bag.

Please Note: If mobile phones, Smart watches, speaker and other such electronic devices are not collected within a month of confiscation they will be given to charity for recycling.

Refusal to hand over any of the items above when reasonably requested by a member of staff will result in the school behaviour sanctions being implemented which can result in a suspension for defiance.

We appreciate that many parents consider their son/daughter having a mobile phone as an important safety consideration when walking to and from school. For this reason, we acknowledge that pupils will have mobile phones in their bags.

However, they must not have them in their pockets or ever get them out whilst on the school site. If a pupil is seen holding a mobile phone or a mobile phone is visibly on their person in any way, **it will be confiscated**.

If a pupil's mobile phone rings whilst in their pocket, blazer or coat **it will be confiscated**. **It must be stored, switched off, in their bag.**

However, if **inadvertently a pupil's mobile phone rings whilst in their bag** they can ask any member of staff for the opportunity to turn their phone off. If they choose to do this without asking a member of staff for permission and are seen with their mobile phone out **it will be confiscated**.

Confiscated mobile phones will be placed in the school safe. **They will only be returned to the pupil on the following Monday at 3.10pm**. If a mobile is confiscated on a Monday it will be returned on the following Monday.

Where a Monday is an INSET or bank holiday the next school day will be considered the day of return. When the following week is a holiday week, the end of the day of the day we break up will be used to return confiscated mobile phones and other such devices highlighted in this policy.

We accept the Monday returns day is strict but we strongly feel that this provides a suitable deterrent to discourage pupils from risking using mobile phones in school.

We hold this line for the safety and wellbeing of your child and all of the other pupils in the school.