

March 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Mobile Phone Policy Changes from September 2026

Thank you to all parents who responded to our recent mobile phone survey (a summary of the results is included on the next page). Your feedback, alongside our experiences with Key Stage 3 students and growing evidence about the impact of smartphones on young people, has informed an important change to our mobile phone policy.

From September 2026, students entering Year 7 will not be permitted to bring smartphones to school.

In reaching this decision, we have carefully considered both the benefits and drawbacks of smartphone use for children starting secondary school. We have concluded that, at this age, the potential risks outweigh the benefits.

These risks include:

- Reduced face-to-face social interaction
- Exposure to inappropriate content or contact from strangers
- Distraction and reduced focus, particularly when completing homework
- Social media misuse, including bullying and poor conduct in group chats
- Inappropriate sharing of images

Research suggests that limiting smartphone use can improve focus, strengthen social interaction, reduce anxiety, and support overall wellbeing.

At present, our pastoral team spends a significant amount of time addressing issues arising from smartphone use outside of school. This change will allow staff to focus more fully on supporting students' learning and development during the school day.

We remain committed to educating students about safe and responsible use of technology. However, we believe that most 11-year-olds are not yet ready to manage the independence that smartphones provide.

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By removing this distraction at a crucial stage, we aim to give students the best possible start at Northwood—helping them to build strong habits and relationships that will support them throughout their time with us.

We recognise that this is a significant change, but it is a carefully considered decision, grounded in research and our commitment to acting in the best interests of our students.

This policy will apply only to students joining Year 7 in September 2026. Students currently in Year 7 and above will continue to follow the existing policy, which allows smartphones in school provided they are switched off and out of sight during the day.

We will review the impact of this approach before considering any changes for other Key Stage 3 year groups.

A frequently asked questions document is included to address common queries and provide further reading. If you have any additional questions or specific circumstances you would like us to consider, please contact Mr McManus, Deputy Headteacher, via the school office at office@nwschool.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mehul Shah
Headteacher

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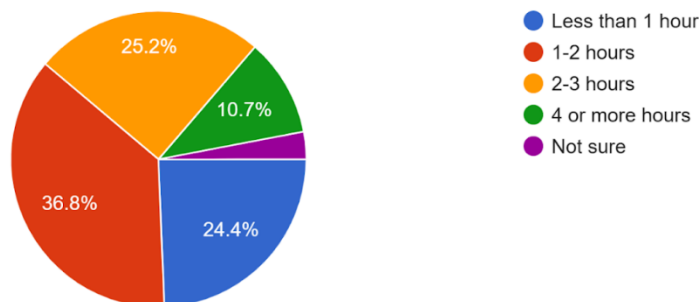
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Key Findings from the Parent Survey (based on 236 responses)

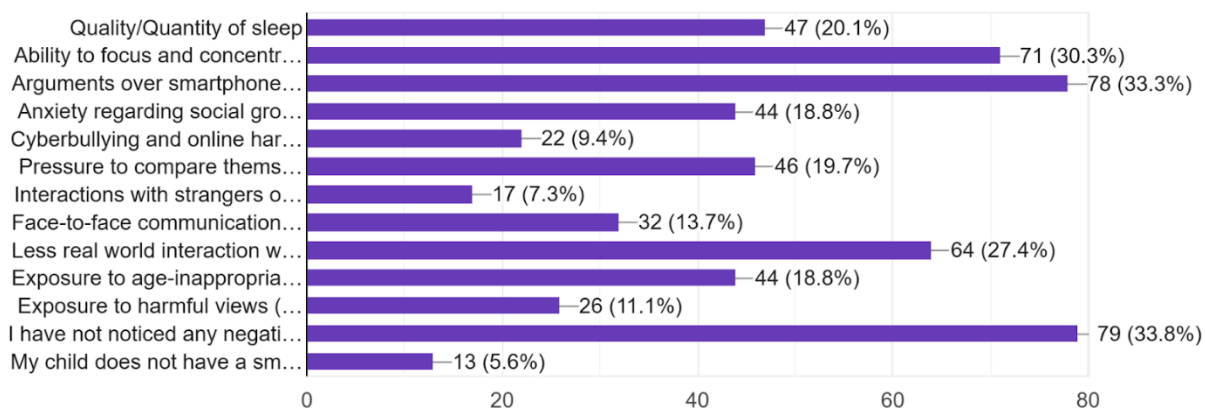
On a typical school day, how many hours would you estimate your child spends on their smartphone outside of school?

234 responses



5. Based on your experience with your child at this school, have you found any of the following to be significant challenges related to their smartphone use? Please select all that apply

234 responses



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7. How supportive would you be of a no-smartphone-on-site policy for new Year 7 students from September 2026? Please note: - the policy would be for the new Y7 intake from September 2026
234 responses

