

7 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

MOBILE PHONES

Following recent national developments, including correspondence from the Secretary of State for Education regarding a strengthened approach to mobile phones in schools, I am writing to let you know what this means for us; remind you of our expectations at Priory and to thank you, in advance, for your continued support in reinforcing these with your daughter or son.

There is now a clear national expectation from the Government that mobile phones should not be used by pupils during the school day. This includes their use for any purpose, such as a calculator, researching information, checking the time, or accessing school applications. In short, mobile phones should not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site.

We fully appreciate that many parents may wish their child to carry a mobile phone for safety when travelling to and from school. As such, we will continue to take a sensible and practical approach. However, it remains essential, in upholding our *Priory Standard* and maintaining a calm and focused learning environment, that mobile phones do not pose a safeguarding risk, distract from learning, or become a source of conflict.

Our procedures are designed to ensure that all pupils feel safe at all times and are protected from being filmed, photographed, or recorded without their consent. Additionally, there is a growing body of evidence highlighting links between excessive mobile phone use and increased levels of anxiety and low mood among young people. As a school, we have a responsibility to minimise these risks and support pupils to focus on their learning and wellbeing.

Our Expectations

Once pupils enter the school grounds, the following applies:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight at all times
- They must not be visible anywhere on the school site
- Phones must not be kept in blazer, shirt, or trouser pockets
- Earbuds or headphones must not be worn. Their use strongly indicates that a mobile phone is in use, and therefore the same expectations and procedures apply
- Pupils are encouraged to store phones securely in their locker at the start of the day
- Alternatively, phones may be kept in bags, provided they remain off and out of sight
- The only exception is after 3:20pm in the reception area, with staff permission, to contact parents regarding travel



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If a pupil needs to contact home during the day, they should go to reception or the Pastoral Office at break or lunchtime, where they will be supported to use a school phone.

Similarly, we ask parents not to contact pupils directly during the school day via mobile phone. Instead, please contact the school reception, and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly. If a response is required, pupils will be supported to return your call.

Please note that pupils bring mobile phones into school entirely at their own risk, and the school cannot accept responsibility for loss, theft, or damage, this includes when a phone is confiscated.

Consequences

To ensure consistency and fairness, the following applies:

- Any phone, earbuds or headphones seen by staff will result in the phone being confiscated immediately
- Confiscated phones will be taken to the Pastoral Office, labelled, and stored securely
- Phones confiscated during lessons will be collected by a member of the Pastoral Team or Senior Leadership Team
- Pupils may collect their phone at the end of the day and will receive an SLT after-school detention
- Refusal to hand over a phone will result in parent contact and the pupil being sent home
- A parent/guardian will then be required to attend school the following day for a meeting with a senior leader
- Persistent breaches will lead to further sanctions, including time in our Reflection Room
- In cases of repeated confiscation, phones will need to be collected by a parent or guardian

Working Together

"Off and out of sight – always" remains our clear and consistent message.

We recognise that growing up in a digital world presents unique challenges. By limiting mobile phone use in school, we aim to provide pupils with valuable time away from these pressures, allowing them to focus fully on their learning, relationships, and personal development.

To support this further, pupils may choose to hand in their mobile phone voluntarily to the Pastoral Office for safe storage. This may be at the start of the school day, for a week, or longer, with parental agreement. This can be particularly helpful for pupils preparing for examinations or seeking to minimise distractions during the school day for example. Please do speak to your daughter or son about this, as a viable option at certain times in their learning journey with us.

Thank you once again for your continued support with our procedures as a school to mobile phones. By working together, we can maintain a safe, focused, and supportive environment in which all pupils can continue to thrive and succeed.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Principal