



**THE
KINGSWAY
SCHOOL**



**EDUCATION
LEARNING
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COLLABORATE – EMPOWER – ACHIEVE

THE KINGSWAY SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONES AND SMART TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Updated	Summer 2026
Next review	Autumn 2026

Revision History

Date	Document Version	Document Revision History	Document Author/Reviser	Document Approval
July 2026	Version 1.0	New Policy	Joel Sadler	Subject to Approval

1. Purpose and Principles

The Kingsway School is committed to providing a calm, safe and purposeful environment in which all pupils can **achieve, belong and thrive**. Our approach to mobile phones and smart technology is rooted in our core value of **compassion** and our commitment to the wellbeing of every pupil.

We recognise that mobile phones and smart technology are an important part of modern life. They provide opportunities for communication, connection, access to information and support, and we recognise that many pupils and families rely on them outside school. Our policy is therefore not based on a belief that technology is inherently harmful or that mobile phones have no place in young people's lives.

However, there is increasing evidence and government guidance regarding the potential impact of excessive or poorly managed screen use on children's wellbeing, including its potential to displace sleep, physical activity, face-to-face interaction and other positive experiences. Mobile phones can also contribute to distraction, social pressure, bullying, harassment and other safeguarding concerns.

The Department for Education has responded to this evidence by establishing a statutory expectation that schools in England should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**, with access during the school day limited to exceptional circumstances. The Kingsway School supports this approach.

Our mobile phone-free school day is therefore intended to do more than reduce disruption. It is a positive wellbeing measure which creates protected time for pupils to **learn, talk, play, exercise, build relationships and participate fully in school life without the pressures and distractions of their phones**. This reflects our commitment to **compassion**. We believe that sometimes supporting young people means creating healthy boundaries around technology and helping them develop the habits, relationships and resilience they need to thrive.

The policy is intended to be applied consistently and fairly. Where individual pupils have medical, SEND, disability, safeguarding or other exceptional needs, the school will consider appropriate adaptations and reasonable adjustments in accordance with its legal duties and the principles set out in this policy.

Our aim is therefore not simply to **remove phones from school**, but to create a culture in which pupils understand **why** a mobile phone-free school day is beneficial and recognise the value of being present, connected and engaged with the people and opportunities around them.

This policy should be read alongside the **Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, SEND and Inclusion Policy, Equality Policy and Searching, Screening and Confiscation Procedure**.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils at The Kingsway School.

For the purposes of this policy, references to **mobile phones and smart technology** include mobile phones and other devices with similar functionality, including devices capable of sending or receiving notifications or messages through mobile networks or recording audio or video.

This may include:

- mobile phones
- smart watches with communication or recording functions
- smart glasses
- other connected or wearable devices with similar functionality.

The school may identify additional devices as being subject to this policy where their use presents similar risks to learning, safety or wellbeing.

3. Education, Digital Wellbeing and Critical Thinking

The school's approach to mobile phones is supported by education about the opportunities, risks and responsibilities associated with technology and life online.

Through the **PPE curriculum**, pupils are encouraged to reflect on issues relating to technology, social media, online behaviour, digital wellbeing and the wider impact of technology on individuals and society. This includes consideration of the **Online Safety Act** and the responsibilities of individuals, technology companies and government in creating a safer online environment.

Pupils are encouraged to discuss these issues openly, consider different perspectives and develop the **critical thinking and media literacy skills** needed to make informed decisions about the technology they use.

This approach reflects the Department for Education's expectation that pupils should be taught about the risks associated with mobile phones and develop the knowledge and skills needed to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

The school recognises that digital technology will remain an important part of pupils' lives. Our aim is therefore not simply to restrict access, but to help pupils develop the **knowledge, judgement and self-regulation** needed to navigate the digital world safely and positively.

This includes encouraging pupils to consider:

- how technology can support communication, learning and connection

- how excessive or inappropriate screen use can affect wellbeing
- how online content can influence attitudes, behaviour and relationships
- how algorithms, social media and online platforms can shape what people see
- how to recognise misinformation, disinformation and harmful content
- how online behaviour can affect themselves and others
- how to seek help when something online causes concern or harm
- how to develop healthy boundaries around technology and screen use.

This educational approach supports our wider ambition for pupils to **achieve, belong and thrive**, both within school and beyond it.

4. Mobile Phone-Free School Day

Pupils must not have access to or use mobile phones or prohibited smart technology during the school day unless an exception has been specifically authorised by the school.

The school day includes:

- lessons
- movement between lessons
- breaktimes
- lunchtime
- assemblies
- form time
- other supervised school activities taking place during the school day.

The expectation applies across **both TKS campuses**.

The school's expectation is simple:

Mobile phones and prohibited smart technology are not to be used or accessible during the school day.

The policy applies regardless of whether a device is being used, visible, switched on or silent.

5. Bringing a Mobile Phone to School

Pupils who choose to bring a mobile phone or smart device to school remain responsible for ensuring that it is not accessible or used during the school day.

Devices must be switched off and stored securely as directed by the school.

The school does not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of personal mobile phones or smart technology brought to school.

Parents and carers should consider whether their child needs to bring a device to school and should ensure that they understand and support the school's expectations.

6. Prohibited Items

Mobile phones and smart technology covered by this policy are **prohibited items under the school's Behaviour Policy**.

Where a device is identified in breach of this policy, it will be confiscated in accordance with the arrangements set out below.

7. Confiscation

Where a mobile phone or prohibited smart device is seen, heard or otherwise identified in breach of this policy, it **will be confiscated**.

Staff should not enter into prolonged discussion or negotiation with a pupil about whether the device should be handed over.

The device will be taken to the **Main Reception on the relevant campus** and stored securely in accordance with the school's arrangements.

A **15-minute detention** will normally be issued for a mobile phone or prohibited smart device confiscation.

Confiscation is a proportionate disciplinary response to a breach of the school's mobile phone policy and may be used alongside other behaviour responses where appropriate.

8. Refusal to Hand Over a Device

Pupils are expected to cooperate when a member of staff instructs them to hand over a mobile phone or prohibited smart device.

Refusal to hand over a device will be classed as serious behaviour.

A **C5 Serious Incident** will be issued and a **higher-level sanction will be applied** in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

Where a pupil refuses to comply, staff should seek support from an appropriate member of the Behaviour or Senior Leadership Team rather than engage in prolonged confrontation.

The school will not routinely search for a mobile phone or smart device. Where a pupil refuses to hand over a device, the matter will be addressed through the behaviour response outlined above.

9. Collection and Return of Confiscated Devices

Confiscated devices will be stored securely at **Main Reception**.

Devices will normally be returned in accordance with the school's established collection arrangements.

Where a pupil has repeatedly breached this policy, the school may require a parent or carer to collect the device or may introduce an individual arrangement requiring the pupil to hand their device to the school at the beginning of each school day.

Any such arrangement will be communicated clearly to the pupil and parent or carer.

The duration of confiscation will be proportionate to the circumstances and may be increased for repeated or serious breaches, in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

10. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The school will operate the mobile phone-free environment by default. Exceptions will be limited and will require specific authorisation.

The school will comply with its legal duties, including the duty to make **reasonable adjustments for SEND pupils** under the Equality Act 2010.

An exception may be authorised where a pupil has a specific medical, disability, SEND or other exceptional need that means access to a mobile phone or smart technology is necessary.

Any exception will be agreed in advance wherever practicable and will identify:

- the reason for the exception
- when and where the device may be accessed
- who has authorised the arrangement
- any conditions attached to its use.

An exception does not provide unrestricted access to the device and does not remove the pupil from the expectations of the Behaviour Policy.

11. Safeguarding and Emergency Situations

The school recognises that mobile phones and smart technology may have legitimate safeguarding, medical or emergency uses in exceptional circumstances.

Pupils should not use their own mobile phone to contact parents or carers during the school day unless this has been authorised by a member of staff.

Where a pupil is unwell, concerned about their safety or requires contact with home, they should speak to a member of staff who will support them through the appropriate school procedure.

In an emergency, pupils should follow the instructions of staff and use the school's established emergency and safeguarding arrangements.

Where access to a device forms part of an agreed safeguarding or medical arrangement, the arrangements will be documented and communicated to relevant staff.

12. Online Behaviour and Misuse

The use of a mobile phone or smart device to engage in **bullying, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, sexual harassment, sexual violence, sharing of nudes or semi-nudes, recording others without consent, threats, intimidation or other harmful behaviour will be classed as serious behaviour.**

Such behaviour will be dealt with under the TKS **Ready-Respect-Safe Policy** and, where appropriate, the TKS **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**.

A higher-level sanction will be considered in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.

Where behaviour involves potential criminal activity or significant safeguarding concerns, the school may involve the police or other relevant agencies.

13. Staff Responsibilities

All staff are expected to implement this policy consistently and fairly.

Where a member of staff sees or hears a prohibited mobile phone or smart device, they should follow the established confiscation procedure.

Confiscated devices must be handed to **Main Reception on the relevant campus** as soon as practicable.

Staff should record the behaviour response in accordance with the school's **Behaviour Policy** and established recording arrangements.

Staff should consider whether misuse of a device raises a safeguarding concern and refer concerns to the DSL or Deputy DSL where appropriate.

14. Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to support the school's mobile phone-free environment.

Parents and carers should not seek to contact pupils directly on their mobile phones during the school day.

Where contact with a pupil is necessary, parents and carers should use the school's established communication channels.

Parents and carers will be informed where their child's device has been confiscated where required by the school's procedures or where the circumstances warrant it.

The school will communicate the policy clearly to pupils and parents and will provide reminders where appropriate.

14. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The school will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy through behaviour data, including confiscations, refusals to hand over devices, repeated breaches and associated sanctions.

Patterns will be reviewed to identify any safeguarding, SEND, equality or individual pupil considerations.

The impact of the policy on behaviour, learning, relationships, pupil wellbeing and the wider school culture will be evaluated.

The policy will be reviewed annually and sooner where there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance, school practice or identified need.

The **2026–27 policy will receive an additional review during the autumn term** to evaluate its implementation and impact following the introduction of the revised mobile phone and smart technology arrangements.

15. Related Policies and Guidance

This policy should be read alongside:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Procedure
- SEND and Inclusion Policy
- Equality Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Restrictive Intervention and Reasonable Force Policy
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Department for Education: Mobile phones in schools
- Department for Education: Searching, Screening and Confiscation
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

APPENDIX:

