



# Student Mobile Device Policy

Written by	Adopted by Governing Body	Review Date
Jade Driscoll	March 2026	September 2028

# Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Aims	2
3. Scope	2
4. Responsibilities	2
5. Never used, seen, or heard	3
6. Travelling to and from school	3
7. Non uniform days	3
8. Summer term uniform	4
9. Reasonable adjustments	4
10. Emergency home contact	4
11. Theft, damage or loss	4
12. School events and trips	5
13. Role of parents	5
14. Staff and volunteers	6
15. Sanctions	6

## 1. Introduction

At Baysgarth School we believe our number one priority is the safety and happiness of every child. We have a legal obligation to keep children safe from harm and ensure we exercise our duty of care to teach students how to keep themselves safe.

The DfE has strengthened guidance for schools based on new research and feedback about the impact of mobile technology within school settings.

*'Schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime'*

Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance DfE January 2026

The following research underpins the DfE and school position:

- Children's Media Use and Attitudes Report 2023 - Ofcom
- Department for Education (2023) National Behaviour Survey:
- Royal College Paediatrics and Child Health (2019) The health impacts of screen time - a guide for clinicians and parents
- Education Committee Report on Mobile Phones in Schools 2024
- Policy Exchange "Disconnect" Report (2024)
- 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report

In addition, the updated statutory guidance for schools, Keeping Children Safe in Education, puts legal responsibility on schools to ensure we are actively supervising and monitoring what students are accessing online. This legal duty upon schools does not just relate to what students access in lessons on school computers, but also includes any content they might access on their own mobile devices during the school day.

The school's approach to mobile devices builds on the long standing practice of not using mobile phones within school, including break and lunchtimes.

Baysgarth School following the DfE guidance in January 2026, is adopting one of the 4 methods recommended. The method adopted is "never used, seen, or heard".

Under this policy, students retain possession of their phones but are strictly prohibited from having them visible or audible at any point during the school day on any part of the school premises.

The school accepts that parents give their children mobile devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also increasing concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. It is acknowledged that providing a child with a mobile device gives parents much needed reassurance, which has factored into our decision makings

With the continuing advances in technology and its applications the school also accepts that mobile technology can support pupils' learning. However, the school has invested significantly into ICT devices and therefore there is no reliance on devices being bought in from home to support learning. However, the school understands its responsibility to ensure that students are taught how to use technology safely and responsibly and have the skills needed to function in the ever changing workplace.

This Policy is designed to ensure that potential issues involving mobile devices are reduced significantly and students' mental health and engagement with learning can improve. The policy aims to also reduce the time spent on dealing with mobile phone issues within school, allowing staff to focus on teaching.

Mobile devices and handheld devices will be referred to as mobile devices and this includes:

- mobile phones,
- audio/music devices including air pods
- video devices,
- gaming devices,
- mobile computers,
- smart watches

This list is not exhaustive and with any new advancement of technology the school reserves the right to deem any item a mobile device that can send and receive messages and access the internet, under the scope of this policy at any time.

## **2. Aims**

This policy aims to:

- Significantly increase learning time for all students, maximising the time engaged in thinking and learning within lessons
- Remove distractions and improve behaviour and concentration for all students
- Improve mental health and wellbeing
- Reduce and eliminate cyber bullying at school
- Safeguard every student in our community
- Increase communication and social skill development between students, particularly at unstructured times
- Enable schools to be able to monitor all online use to ensure every child is safe from harm

## **3. Scope**

This policy applies to all students, employees and all contractors and agency staff working for the school on school premises.

The policy is applied within the school premises which are within the school's secure line as designated by the green gates.

## **4. Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of students, parents and staff to read this policy carefully and ensure they are familiar with its content including expectations and consequences.

## 5. "Never used, seen, or heard"

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used at any point on the school site. This includes:

- Before school
- In breakfast clubs
- Break and lunchtime
- Intervention sessions
- Clubs and enrichment activities including trips
- School activities such as Open Evening
- After school within the perimeter of the school site

All devices must be switched off, not on silent. Alerts such as vibrations will constitute being heard and result in sanctions.

Phones should not be placed in blazer chest pockets or front pockets as these are still potentially visible and will be subject to sanctions.

Phones / Mobile devices should be placed in an **inside blazer pocket or in a bag**.

**Devices should not be stored in a blazer outside pocket which can be seen.**

Phones and mobile devices cannot be used for any educational activity within the school site such as:

- Checking timetables
- Using the calculator
- Checking the time
- Using the stop watch
- Research

## 6. Travelling to and from school

There are many students who carry mobile devices to school for personal safety and the school encourages this strategy from a safeguarding perspective.

If a student does not require a mobile phone for the purpose of their journey, then parents should ensure that their mobile phone remains at home.

When leaving at the end of the day, mobile phones / devices should not be retrieved from pockets or bags until students have exited through the green gates, past the duty staff

## 7. Non Uniform Days

The school has a number of days in the calendar where the students are allowed in non uniform or PE kit.

On these occasions, the rules remain in place and students should ensure when planning their outfit that there is a zipped pocket where their phone can be stored and not visible or they place their phones in their bag.

## **8. Summer Term Uniform**

During the summer period and when temperatures rise, blazers do not have to be worn.

Students should ensure that if they are not bringing their blazer, they have a bag to store their mobile phone to ensure that they can comply with the school's policy.

## **9. Reasonable Adjustments**

Schools have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to take such steps as is reasonable to avoid substantial disadvantage to any student with a protected characteristic or extenuating circumstances.

Common examples (not an exhaustive list) are:

- Students requiring their mobile phone to manage a medical condition
- Students who are registered Young Carers

Allowing flexibility for individual students does not mean that they are exempt from all restrictions on the use of their mobile phone. In these instances, parents and tutors should discuss this matter and agree the reasonable adjustments which will be at specific times and in specific places, which will be communicated to all staff and recorded on the schools management system.

If any parent or student feels that there are extenuating circumstances for them, they should discuss with the tutor who can provide advice and support with any necessary adaptations needed.

The school will employ this policy with the flexibility and adaptability needed to ensure that all students are treated equitably.

## **10. Emergency Home Contact**

There will always be occasions when a parent/ carer or child will need to make contact due to changes to plans or emergencies.

Parents / Carers are required to demonstrate their support for this policy by ensuring they do not use communication via mobile device for any child at school. If a parent receives a message from their child from the school site and we become aware of this, then the student could face consequences for not seeking support from staff in the right way.

In the event that a parent requires contact with their child, they should contact the main reception who will make the arrangements.

In the event that a child needs to contact home, they should make their way to the student reception where they will be assisted to do so.

## **11. Theft, damage or loss**

All mobile phones and devices are used at the sole responsibility of the parent / carer.

The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices, irrespective of the cause involving other students.

The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile device stolen while travelling to and from school.

## **12. School events and trips**

The school has the same legal duties during school events and trips. The overriding priority is the safety and wellbeing of all students. The DfE stipulates that:

‘Schools should ensure that pupils’ educational experience on a school trip is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones’

Each trip is risk assessed and there will be a specific risk assessment for the use of mobile phones and devices uploaded with all trip documentation on EVOLVE. This will be clearly communicated to all parents in the trip information.

Sanctions will be applied consistently on a school trip if it is seen, heard or used in breach of the risk assessment. This may include parents being required to collect a student.

In general, students will be expected to follow the general rule of “never used, seen, or heard”.

For some older students, where they are permitted greater freedoms and less supervision on a school trip e.g. when visiting a theme park or city visit, they will be expected to carry their mobile phones in case of emergency contact.

On residential trips, students may be allowed dedicated time with mobile devices to allow them to make contact with home on a daily basis. This will be included in the risk assessment.

## **13. Role of Parents**

Parents are crucial to ensuring that the school environment remains free from the distractions of mobile devices. It is expected that all parents support the school and Government policies.

Parents should support the school by:

- Ensuring their child/ children understand the expectations and the rationale behind school policy
- Ensure students only have a mobile device on their person if they need it for travelling to and from school
- Ensure smart watches are not worn to school
- Do not use a students mobile phone or device to contact them for any reason during the school day
- Ensure parental supervision and regular checking of all mobile devices. This includes the use of monitoring software. Parents can contact the school at any time for advice
- Ensure restrictions on mobile device use extend to the home to ensure positive wellbeing and sleep

#### **14. Staff and Volunteers**

Staff and volunteers should ensure they are role models for students with regards to this policy. Where the need of a mobile phone is necessary for work purposes, it should be done as far as possible out of sight of students.

#### **15. Sanctions**

The sanction for unacceptable use of mobile devices on Baysgarth School site is immediate confiscation, as per DfE guidance.

A sanction will be applied if a mobile phone or device is:

- Visibly seen on a student's person for example a phone in a blazer pocket or smart watch on wrist
- Heard via ringtone, message alert or vibration
- Used for any activity on the school site
- Found to have been used to make contact with parents / carers or other students during the school day from within the school site

The phone will be immediately seized and taken to the main office where it will be safely stored.

After the end of the school day, students can collect their phone before leaving the site for home if this is their first offence.

In the event that a student has had their phone confiscated once before, then a parent or carer will be contacted to collect the mobile phone as it will not be returned to the student.

In the event of a serious breach of the policy which includes:

- Capturing footage of any activity within school
- Posting on social media during the school day

The mobile phone / device will be confiscated immediately and only returned to a parent, even if this is a first offence.

If a student has their phone confiscated more than twice then the school will implement tighter restrictions to prevent the mobile phone being brought into school with the support of parents. This may include:

- Mobile phone / device being in the possession of parents during the day
- Phone is confiscated daily on arrival at main reception before entering the school site

If a student refuses to hand over their mobile phone, this will be dealt with as defiance and refusal of a reasonable request. This will result in an isolation placement or suspension.