



Bexley Grammar School

Mobile Phone Policy

Rationale:

The objective of this policy is to ensure that our environment is mobile phone-free by default.

There is a growing body of evidence that excessive phone and screen use is associated with poorer concentration, reduced academic engagement, poorer sleep, lower levels of physical activity and a range of wellbeing concerns.

While there is an educational place for the use of technology, the evidence is clear that the leisure time that students have in school should be spent away from screens, socialising face to face and playing non-screen games, preferably those involving physical activity.

Students are taught about a range of issues involving the internet and social media safety in PSHCE, assemblies and in computer science lessons.

For the purposes of this policy, 'phones' stand for mobile phones but also any portable electronic device that can be used for gaming, internet connection, messaging, recording or running social media apps, including smart watches, headphones, smart glasses and earbuds.

This policy meets the requirements of section 36 of the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026](#), and the Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory [mobile phone guidance](#) and [behaviour guidance](#). Further guidance that should be considered alongside this policy is [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

Policy for students in Years 7-11

- Students in Years 7–11 must not bring mobile phones or other personal smart devices onto the school site. If a student is found to have brought a phone into school, the student should expect the phone to be confiscated and to be sanctioned with a DOS detention. The parents / carers of that student will be asked to collect the phone between 3:05 and 4:30pm from Reception on that school day or later when it is convenient for the parent/carer; the student will not be able to collect it without her/his parent or carer. Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from pupils under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- If a student has his/her phone confiscated twice, then on the second occasion, a Directors of Studies detention will be issued, and the parents / carers of that student will be asked to

collect the phone between 8:15 and 4:30pm from Reception seven days after confiscation, or at the end of the half term is sooner.

- If a student has his/her phone confiscated three times or more, a Directors of Studies detention will be issued, and the parents / carers of that student will be asked to collect the phone between 8:15 and 4:30pm from Reception seven days, after confiscation, or at the end of the half term is sooner, and a meeting will be held with a member of pastoral staff.
- Where staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil is in possession of a mobile phone or device in breach of this policy, authorised staff may search for that item in accordance with the school's behaviour policy and [DfE searching and confiscation guidance](#).
- In the normal course of a school day, there should be no need to contact each other or parents / carers by phone other than in an emergency. If a student has a genuine reason to need to make a phone call, s/he should report to Reception where staff will make the necessary arrangements.

Policy for Sixth Form students

- Students may bring their phones to school but they must be out of sight between 8:30am and 3:10pm except for Private Study, break and lunchtime in designated Sixth Form areas.
- It is a student's responsibility to keep her/his phone out of sight in a bag or blazer pocket unless s/he is in a designated Sixth Form study area: L6, L12, K1 or SFC.
- Students should also put earphones, earbuds and headphones away for the day in the same way, to be used only in the designated areas.
- Sixth Form students must be particularly mindful not to use phones in areas where younger students can see them, as they serve as role models for the rest of the school. It is important that Sixth Form students set an example to lower school students by not using their phones anywhere else in the school, including corridors, in the canteen and outside. If a student has a phone out for any reason other than being asked to do so by a member of staff in any area of the school except those designated Sixth Form areas detailed above, the student should expect the phone to be confiscated, to be sanctioned with a DOS detention and to have to collect it at the end of the school day.
- If a member of staff requests the use of phones to support a learning activity during a sixth form lesson, students must use their phones only for the task set. At the end of the task, it is the students' responsibility to put them away again.

Policy for staff

As in all aspects of school life, staff provide a powerful role model for students. In parallel to Sixth Form students, staff should only use their phones in designated staff areas, outside lesson time. It is difficult to enforce a no-phone policy with students if staff are using phones in front of them.

Consistency is the key; as with any other policy, it is effective only when every member of staff is consistent in enforcing it. Staff should confiscate any phone from any student in Years 7-11. The same applies to any Sixth Form student unless they are in the designated Sixth Form areas (L6, L12, K1 or SFC).

Policy for parents/ carers

The school does not take responsibility for any student valuables brought into school. Students bring phones, headphones, earbuds, watches and other valuables to school at their own risk and against the rules of the school.

There is no educational or safeguarding requirement for students to carry a mobile phone during the school day.

As well as the benefits outlined in the 'Rationale' above, this policy improves students' organisation using their planners and their responsibility for their belongings.

- It is expected that parents / carers will support the school in reinforcing the expectation that your son/daughter's phone will be confiscated and your child sanctioned if seen. Where a student's phone is confiscated, a parent / carer will be required to collect the phone from the school between 8:15am and 4:30pm when convenient for the parent/carer after the school day.
- If a parent needs to contact their child during school hours, they should do so through Reception, by phoning 020 8304 8538. If a child has forgotten his/her PE kit, homework, lunch, etc, these can be dropped off at reception where staff will ensure the item reaches your child. The reverse also applies: a student may contact parents / carers in an emergency by going to Reception.
- The school remains, of course, mindful of its responsibilities to keep your children safe.

To support parents / carers in enforcing their own rules for phone use at home, the school makes it clear that if homework set by the school requires the internet, it can be completed on a computer with internet access - there is no requirement for a phone to be used (eg. Google Classroom, where it is used, can be accessed from a computer). If a home computer is not available and your child uses their phone for such homework, then it should be monitored just as computer time. (Some parents / carers keep a separate 'old' smartphone available at home for 'computer use', one monitored by parents / carers and kept free of social media apps, etc.). We strongly advise parents and carers of new students not to give children smartphones, but to consider simpler devices instead.

By restricting screen time during school hours, the school is actively supporting parents / carers who are restricting screen time at home. The growing body of evidence about too much screen time means that in working together to reduce it, we improve the academic performance, mental health and physical fitness of your children. This policy supports us in our safeguarding responsibility to your children.

Exceptions

The school may permit pupils to use a mobile phone or device in school, due to highly exceptional circumstances. Permission will only be granted where there is a documented safeguarding or medical necessity. To request such permission, pupils or parents/carers should contact school enquiries.

School Trips

Trip leaders will determine whether phones are permitted on a particular trip and will communicate arrangements in advance. Where phones are permitted, additional restrictions may apply.

This policy is linked to our E-Safety Policy and our Behaviour Policy.