



**CHURCHER'S  
COLLEGE**

## **MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

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April 2025

## 1 Introduction

1.1 The aims of this policy are:

- To create a school environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so that all pupils can learn and thrive.
- To create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices.
- To have a positive impact on pupils' wellbeing, by encouraging them to spend more time staying active and interacting face to face with their peers.

1.2 This policy has been produced with regard to the non-stutory DfE guidance [Mobile phones in schools \(February 2024\)](#).

1.3 Throughout this policy, references to mobile phone include other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones.

1.4 This policy is published on the School website and is available in hard copy from the School Office on request.

## 2 Related policies

2.1.1 Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy (Senior School);

2.1.2 Culture and Ethos Policy (Junior School & Nursery)

2.1.3 Anti-bullying Policies;

2.1.4 Online Safety Policy;

2.1.5 IT Acceptable Use Policies; and

2.1.6 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

## 3 Junior School

3.1 Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school. For the avoidance of doubt, pupils are not permitted to bring into School any watches with camera, videoing or messaging capabilities.

3.2 **Sanctions:** Any breach of this policy by pupils will be dealt with under the Culture and Ethos Policy.

## 4 Senior School

4.1 **1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Year:** Mobile phones may be brought into school but must be switched off and secured in a Yondr pouch between 8.30am and 4.00pm. If a pupil forgets to bring their pouch to school, they will be required to leave their mobile phone at the School Office, for collection at the end of the school day.

In an emergency, pupils may request to use the telephone in the School Office. Should parents wish to contact their child[ren] in an emergency, they should telephone the School Office and a message will be relayed promptly.

- 4.2 **Sixth Form:** The School recognises that the Sixth Form period of education is one of increased independence and responsibility. As such, the School permits Sixth Form students to use their mobile devices in the social areas of the Ramshill Sixth Form Centre and in workrooms (provided that this does not impact on the studies of another student). Ramshill is supervised by teaching staff during the hours of the school day. Sixth Form students are expected to model good behaviour and are not permitted to use mobile phones outside of Ramshill or in front of younger pupils.

On one day each week, Sixth Form students are encouraged to keep their phones in their bags/suit pockets. This is known as "Talk Tuesday" and is part of the School's strategy to help pupils develop positive habits when using technology and to promote pupil wellbeing.

- 4.3 **Sanctions:** Pupils who contravene the school rules with regard to mobile devices will be sanctioned. Sanctions specific to Sixth Form students are outlined in the Sixth Form Handbook.
- 4.4 **Searching and confiscation:** Mobile electronic devices may be confiscated and searched in appropriate circumstances. Please see Appendix 1 of the School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy for the School's policy on the searching of electronic devices. Pupils may also be prevented from bringing a mobile electronic device into the School temporarily or permanently and at the sole discretion of the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

## 5 **The role of staff**

- 5.1 Staff will be briefed on the School's mobile phone policy during induction and will be expected to enforce the policy vigorously, consistently and visibly.
- 5.2 Staff are expected to teach and model expected behaviour, so that pupils can see examples of good habits and are confident to ask for help when needed. It is understood that staff may need to check text messages and/or personal emails in the case of emergency or during break/lunch times, however any such use must be discreet and not visible to pupils. There may be occasions where use of a mobile phone is appropriate at other times, for example, when using multi-factor authentication.

## 6 **Educating pupils**

- 6.1 The School's mobile phone policy will be made clear to all pupils. They will be reminded of the policy, and the consequences and sanctions for not following it, at the start of each year and again, where appropriate, at regular intervals.
- 6.2 The safe use of technology is a focus in all areas of the curriculum and key safety messages are reinforced as part of assemblies, PSHE and tutorial/pastoral activities. Pupils are taught, in an age appropriate manner, how to use mobile electronic devices in a safe and responsible way. External speakers such as Childnet are used to reinforce key messages.

## 7 **Working in partnership with parents**

- 7.1 As with other areas of school life, the school understands the value of working in partnership with parents. For example, the Senior School regularly runs parental seminars about issues

relating to online safety, which all parents are invited to attend. Parents play a crucial role in ensuring that pupils understand how to stay safe when using technology and are encouraged to talk to their child(ren) to understand the ways in which they are using mobile devices and to promote responsible behaviour.

- 7.2 The School's Online Safety Policy includes links to a range of resources that parents may find useful.

## **8 Examinations**

- 8.1 Pupils must not bring any mobile electronic devices (including smartphones, tablets and smart glasses), earphones/earbuds or watches (including smartwatches) into examination rooms under any circumstances.

## **9 School trips**

- 9.1 Junior School pupils are not permitted to take mobile electronic devices (including watches with camera, videoing or messaging capabilities) on school trips.
- 9.2 In the Senior School, the School will make a judgment on a case by case basis regarding pupil mobile phone usage on residential trips, or trips outside of the normal school day. The School may place restrictions on pupil mobile phone usage, which may vary depending on the nature of the trip. A range of factors will be considered when making this judgment eg the age of the children, the trip duration and location, including whether it is overseas.
- 9.3 In all cases, the School will seek to ensure that pupils' educational experience on a school trip is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones.

## **10 Adaptations and reasonable adjustments**

- 10.1 The School will comply with its obligation to make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. There may be circumstances where allowing a pupil to have access to their mobile phone during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability, may be considered a reasonable adjustment under the Act.
- 10.2 The School recognises that there may be other circumstances in which it is appropriate to allow some flexibility in the mobile phone policy for a specific pupil, based upon their individual circumstances. For example, a diabetic pupil might use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar levels. In this situation, the School would adapt the mobile phone policy in order to facilitate the pupil's effective management of their medical condition.

## **11 Safeguarding**

- 11.1 In any cases giving rise to safeguarding concerns, the matter will be dealt with under the School's child protection procedures (see the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures).

<b>Authorised by</b>	Deputy Head (Pastoral)
<b>Date</b>	June 2024
	<b>Revised:</b> April 2025
<b>Date of next review</b>	June 2025 or earlier as required