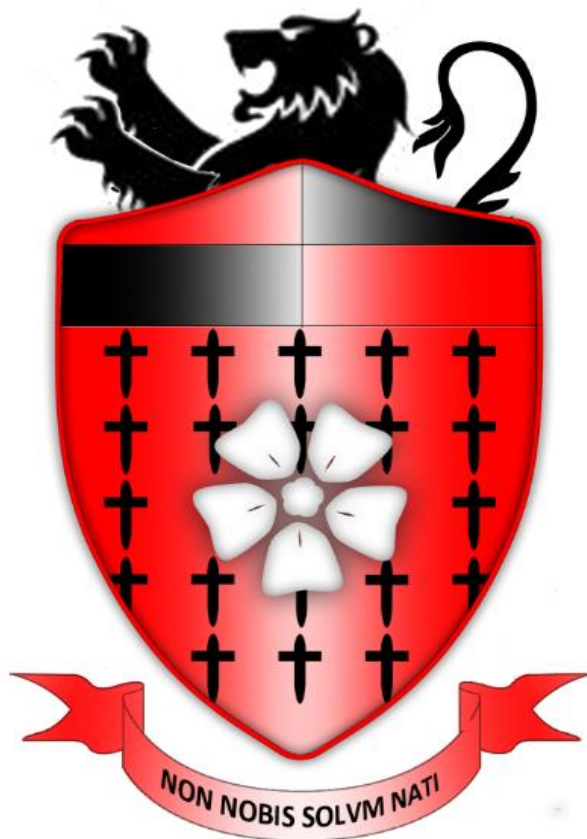


Hornsea School & Language College



Mobile Devices Policy

Date Created:	September 2008	
Approved by:	Headteacher: 05.08.2026	Governing Body: 06.08.2026
Last Reviewed:	Date: July 2026	By: Ashley Dexter, Robert Lewchenko, Vicky Parnaby
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Mobile Phone Policy

1. Rationale

Mobile phones and connected devices are now a common feature of modern society. The school recognises that many students travel independently and that parents/carers may wish them to have access to a device before and after school. The school therefore permits students to bring a mobile phone onto the school site, subject to the restrictions in this policy and entirely at the student's own risk.

This policy has been reviewed in light of the Department for Education statutory guidance Mobile phones in schools, updated on 29 June 2026, which schools should begin following from 1 September 2026. The guidance states that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default and should prohibit the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality throughout the school day, including lessons, movement between lessons, breaktime and lunchtime.

The school's approach is intended to:

- maintain a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment;
- reduce distraction and disruption during lessons and social time;
- reduce safeguarding, child protection, online safety and data protection risks associated with image, video or audio recording;
- reduce the risk of cyberbullying, peer conflict, harmful online behaviour and the sharing of inappropriate material;
- ensure clear, consistent and enforceable expectations for students, staff and parents/carers.

2. Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all students in Years 7 to 13 while they are on the school site, taking part in school activities, or under the supervision of school staff. It applies during the school day, including lessons, the time between lessons, breaktime and lunchtime. For the purposes of this policy, the school day begins when a student arrives on the school site and continues until the student leaves the site at the end of the school day.

Where students remain on site after the normal school day for detention, Study 6, revision, enrichment, clubs, fixtures or other supervised activities, staff may set specific expectations. Unless a member of staff explicitly authorises otherwise, mobile devices must remain switched off and out of sight during these activities.

Arrangements for educational visits, residential trips, fixtures and events outside the normal school day will be communicated separately by the trip or activity leader. The default expectation is that mobile devices must not disrupt the educational purpose, safety or safeguarding arrangements of the activity.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, "mobile device" includes, but is not limited to:

- mobile phones, smartphones and simple phones;
- smartwatches and app-enabled wearable devices;
- fitness trackers or wearable devices capable of communication, notifications, internet access, app access, audio/video recording or similar functionality;
- smart glasses, camera glasses, display-enabled glasses, audio-recording glasses or any similar wearable smart technology;
- tablets, personal gaming devices, cameras or any other personal electronic device capable of communication, internet access, image capture, video recording or audio recording;
- wired or wireless headphones, earphones, earbuds, AirPods or equivalent audio accessories, except where specifically permitted for a curriculum activity as set out below.

Ordinary watches are not banned. Students may wear an analogue watch or a simple digital watch that only tells the time. Smartwatches and wearable devices with phone-like functionality are not permitted unless a specific exception has been agreed in advance by the school.

Standard prescription or non-prescription glasses are not affected by this policy. Smart glasses or any glasses with camera, microphone, recording, display, internet, notification or communication functionality are not permitted on the school site unless a specific exception has been agreed in advance by the school.

4. Core expectations for students in Years 7 to 11

Students in Years 7 to 11 may bring a mobile phone to school. However, devices are brought entirely at the student's own risk and must not be accessed during the school day.

The following expectations apply:

- **Switched off and out of sight:** Mobile phones and permitted personal devices must be switched off, not on silent mode, and kept out of sight in the student's bag from arrival on site until leaving the site at the end of the school day.
- **No use during the school day:** Students must not use, check, hold, wear, access, listen to, look at or otherwise interact with a mobile device during the school day.
- **No visible or audible devices:** If a device is seen, heard or used, this will be treated as a breach of the policy.
- **No image, video or audio recording:** Students must not take photographs, record video, record audio, livestream, share images, or record staff or students on the school site or during school activities unless explicitly authorised by the school for a specific supervised purpose.
- **No direct contact home during the school day:** Students who need to contact home must speak to a member of staff, who will support appropriate communication through school systems.
- **No use in examinations:** Mobile phones, smart devices and similar technology must not be taken into examinations or controlled assessment conditions, in line with examination regulations.

Staff should not plan activities requiring students in Years 7 to 11 to use their personal mobile phones. Where digital resources are required for learning, school systems and school-approved devices should be used.

5. Smartwatches, wearable technology and smart glasses

Smartwatches and app-enabled wearable devices are not permitted on the school site, unless an individual exception has been agreed in advance by the school. This includes any watch or wearable device that can connect to a phone, receive notifications, send or receive messages, access apps, connect to the internet, record audio, record video, take images or operate in a similar way to a mobile phone.

Smart glasses and similar wearable smart technology are not permitted on the school site, unless an individual exception has been agreed in advance by the school. This includes camera glasses, audio-recording glasses, display-enabled glasses or any glasses with communication, notification, recording or internet functionality.

Any smartwatch, smart wearable or smart glasses seen, heard or used in breach of this policy will be treated in the same way as a mobile phone and may be confiscated. Sanctions will be applied in line with this policy and the school's Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy.

6. Headphones, earphones and earbuds

Students must not wear or use wired or wireless headphones, earphones, earbuds, AirPods or equivalent audio accessories around the school site. This includes wearing them in one ear, around corridors, at breaktime, at lunchtime, between lessons, during social time or while moving around the school site.

Headphones may be brought into school and used only where they are required for a specific educational activity, for example in ICT, Music or another lesson where a member of staff has directed students to use headphones with a school computer, musical device or audio equipment.

Where headphones are brought into school for an authorised curriculum purpose, they must remain in the student's bag and must only be used when directed by a member of staff. Outside of these specific learning activities, headphones must not be visible, worn or used.

Headphones and audio accessories seen, worn or used in breach of this policy may be confiscated and sanctions may be applied in line with the school's Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy.

7. Sixth Form students

The school recognises that Sixth Form education involves increased independence and responsibility. Sixth Form students may use mobile phones only within specific areas of the Sixth Form building, as determined by the Strategic Leader of Sixth Form and communicated clearly to students. This permission is subject to students using mobile phones responsibly and must not undermine the school's wider mobile phone-free environment for younger students.

Sixth Form students should not use mobile phones, headphones or smart devices elsewhere on the school site, including when moving between buildings, in corridors, in shared spaces used by younger students, or in front of younger students. Sixth Form students are expected to model responsible conduct and support the school's expectations for Years 7 to 11.

Misuse by Sixth Form students, or use outside the permitted areas or agreed circumstances, may result in confiscation and sanctions in line with the Sixth Form Code of Conduct and the school's Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy.

8. Medical, SEND, safeguarding and other exceptional circumstances

The school will make reasonable adjustments and adaptations where required by law and where appropriate to a student's individual circumstances. Exceptions may be made where a mobile phone, smart device or wearable device is required to support a medical condition, disability, SEND need, safeguarding need, young carer responsibility or other exceptional circumstance.

Examples may include, but are not limited to, a student who uses continuous glucose monitoring linked to a mobile phone or other device, a student who requires assistive technology, or a student for whom a specific safeguarding arrangement has been agreed.

Any exception must be agreed in advance by the school and documented in the student's individual plan, such as a medical plan, individual healthcare plan, SEND support plan, risk assessment, safeguarding plan or other relevant record. The plan should specify the purpose, device, permitted time, permitted location, responsible staff and any safeguards required. Where an arrangement has been agreed, the student will be provided with a sticker for their planner confirming that they are permitted to use their mobile device for the agreed purpose. Students should be prepared to be challenged by staff, particularly while staff become familiar with the arrangement. However, no sanction will be issued where the device is being used in line with the agreed exemption.

Where a device is permitted for an individual reason, it must only be used for the agreed purpose. The existence of an exception does not permit general mobile phone or smart device use.

9. Confiscation and sanctions

Where a mobile phone, smart device, smartwatch, smart wearable, smart glasses, headphones or related accessory is seen, heard, worn, accessed or used in breach of this policy, staff may confiscate the item and apply sanctions in line with the school's Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy.

For students in Years 7 to 11, the usual response to a first breach involving a mobile phone or similar device will be:

- confiscation of the device;
- a Written Warning or other appropriate sanction in line with the Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy (there will be no verbal warning in this case);
- notification to parents/carers;
- collection of the device from the school office from 3.00pm, unless the school determines that a different arrangement is necessary.

For any subsequent breach of this policy, the same confiscation process will be followed. After the first confiscation, parents/carers will be required to collect the mobile device from the school office for each further breach of the policy, unless the school agrees an alternative arrangement.

Failure to hand over a mobile device, smartwatch, smart wearable, smart glasses, headphones or related accessory when instructed by a member of staff will result in a sanction in line with the school's Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy. Persistent refusal, repeat breaches, or serious misuse may lead to further sanctions, including removal from lessons, detention, a requirement to hand in the device at the start of each day, isolation, suspension or other appropriate action.

Where there is suspected safeguarding risk, child-on-child abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, possession or distribution of inappropriate images, upskirting, threats, criminal behaviour or other serious misuse, staff must follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and refer the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy. The school may involve parents/carers, external agencies or the Police where appropriate.

10. Searching, screening and confiscation

Mobile phones, smart devices, smartwatches, smart wearables, smart glasses, headphones and similar devices are identified in school rules as items which may be searched for where staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student is in possession of them in breach of school rules, subject to the school's Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy and relevant statutory guidance.

Confiscated items will be stored securely and returned in line with this policy unless there are safeguarding, disciplinary, evidential or legal reasons to retain the item for longer or to hand it to parents/carers, external agencies or the Police.

11. Emergencies and communication with home

If a student needs to contact a parent/carer during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff. Where appropriate, the student will be allowed to use a school phone or a member of staff will contact home on their behalf.

If parents/carers need to contact a student urgently during the school day, they should contact the school office. A message will be relayed promptly and sensitively.

Students should not contact parents/carers, relatives, friends or the parents/carers of other students directly during the school day before speaking to staff. This can create unnecessary difficulty, misunderstanding or safeguarding risk, and may prevent the school from responding appropriately.

12. Responsibility for devices

Students bring mobile phones and other permitted personal devices onto the school site entirely at their own risk. The school accepts no responsibility for theft, loss, damage or health effects, whether potential or actual, relating to mobile phones, smart devices, headphones or other personal electronic equipment.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers and students to ensure that any device brought to school is appropriately insured and stored securely in line with this policy.

13. Online behaviour and incidents outside school

The school strongly advocates responsible use of mobile technology, smart devices and social media. The school cannot be expected to manage all use of devices by students outside school, particularly where issues originate from out-of-school communication.

Where issues arise between students as a result of misuse of social media or online communication, the school will expect parents/carers to support efforts to manage and address these matters. Where an incident affects safeguarding, welfare, behaviour in school, relationships between students, or the safe and orderly running of the school, the school may take appropriate action in line with its policies and may work with partner agencies or the Police.

14. Communication, implementation and review

The school will communicate this policy clearly to students, parents/carers and staff. Expectations will be reinforced through assemblies, student planners, parent communications, staff briefings and reminders during the school year.

The school will monitor the implementation and impact of this policy during the 2026-27 academic year. The policy will be reviewed at least annually, or sooner if statutory guidance, safeguarding considerations or operational requirements change.

15. Linked policies and guidance

This policy should be read alongside the following school policies and statutory guidance:

- Positive Discipline and Behaviour Policy;
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy;
- Online Safety / ICT Acceptable Use Policy;
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy;
- SEND Policy;
- Educational Visits Policy;
- Sixth Form Code of Conduct;
- Department for Education. (2026). Mobile phones in schools: statutory guidance. Updated 29 June 2026;
- Department for Education. (2026). Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents. Updated 29 June 2026.

DfE statutory guidance link: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

DfE parent communication guidance link: [Communicating your policy to parents - GOV.UK](#)