



Mobile and Smartphone Policy

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Summary of changes

1. Policy written into new format
2. Clear information about consequences of using mobile devices on the school site, including lessons
3. Clear information about escalated consequences for continued breach of the mobile phone policy
4. Reference to new guidance from the DfE

Introduction

Fitzharrys has a simple rule with regards to mobile phones: ‘See it, hear it, lose it’.

This is well understood and followed. The school aims to create culture where students are interacting directly with their peers and not focussed on their screens. We are aware of the impact of mobile phones on mental health and wellbeing, and our policy supports this reduction of the impact of mobile devices. We are also aware that not all students own a mobile or smart phone, so expecting students to use these as a learning tool is not reasonable. We also continue to educate our students about the benefits and risks of mobile devices through our PSHE schemes of learning.

In January 2026, the DfE gave new guidance to schools stipulating that “all schools should be mobile phone-free environments” and schools should “implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime”. [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phones-in-schools)

Procedures for students bringing mobile and smart phones to school

Follow the advice from the DfE:

- If students bring a mobile or smartphone to school, this must be turned off and placed in their bag upon arrival to school. It must stay here until students leave the school site at 15:15.
- ‘Pods’ of any variety are not to be worn or used on school site.

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Consequences for mobile and smartphone use on school site and in lessons

The main consequence for using any devices outlined in this policy is confiscation. Any staff member has the right to request a mobile device (phone, pods or other i.e. games console) and the student is expected to hand this in without complaint or argument. Staff members can also request for devices if they are seen in pockets as this is against our policy of it being in their bag, or if pods are being worn, the students phone will also be confiscated. The device will be taken to Reception where it is then kept for the rest of the day for students to collect at 15:15.

Other consequences related to mobile and smartphone use in school:

- If a student refuses to hand over their phone, then a senior member of staff (normally on call) will be contacted to remove the phone. If the student hands their phone to the senior member of staff, a B3 after school detention will then be set on ePraise for refusing to hand over their phone at the first time of asking. The phone will then be kept at Reception until 16:00.
- If a student refuses to hand over their phone to the senior member of staff, the student is then at risk of escalated consequences i.e. internal suspension, as they are not following staff instructions and/or causing wider disruption to learning. In this instance, parents or carers will be contacted to let them know about the incident and consequence.
- If a student is misusing their phone, then the school may consider escalated consequences such as internal or external suspension from school. Examples of misusing a phone can include, but is not limited to:
 - recording members of the school community
 - sharing images or videos of the school community
 - using social media to bully (cyber bullying) other students
 - the use of generative AI
 - bringing the school into disrepute.
- As part of the Behaviour Policy, staff can search a student and/or their bag for a mobile phone, should staff suspect that the student has been misusing their mobile phone, claim not to have one despite it being seen by staff or their being concerns about students having more than one mobile phone on them after already having one confiscated, or handing a mobile phone in as part of a support plan.

Where students continually breach our mobile phone policy, or is part of a serious incident involving their mobile phone, the school will take the following actions:

- If a student has their phone confiscated three times in a term, then the student will not be allowed to have their phone in school for the rest of that term, or an agreed upon fixed period.
- Students will be expected to hand their phone into one of our pastoral teams, where the phone will be kept in a locked mobile phone storage case. Students will sign their phone in and out, and a description will be given by parents to ensure that the student is handing in the correct phone. Students may be asked to unlock their phone if the school suspects it is not their actual phone.
- If the confiscations occur towards the end of a term, the consequences will carry over into the following term.
- If a student who is currently part of this plan is seen with a mobile phone, their parents or carers will be contacted to discuss further support in helping them not have their phone at school.

Further support for mobile and smartphone use amongst children and young people

The school will endeavour to support young people who struggle to stay off of their screens or who experience poor behaviour from others through their phone. Regular communication home about the impact of extended screentime comes from the school, as well as the dangers of social media, and age – appropriate material being viewed by school aged children. The government introduced the Online Safety Act in 2023, which details the laws that protect children online - [Online Safety Act: explainer - GOV.UK](#).

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If students are the victim of poor behaviour through their mobile phone, then the school encourages students, parents and/or carers to let members of the pastoral team know and we can offer advice on potential consequences which the school can employ, advice on the support that can be provided, or whether contacting external agencies is appropriate. We will also support students who may need to use their phone for specific circumstances, such as medical checks, on an individual basis in agreement with the Assistant Head (Behaviour and Attendance).

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