



Policy Title:	MOBILE PHONE & SMART DEVICE POLICY	
Author:	Deputy Head	Checked by: The Head
Date of most recent review:	March 2026	
Date of next review:	June 2027	

1. Policy Statement

Duke of Kent School is a designated **phone-free zone**. We believe that the presence of mobile phones during the school day is detrimental to social interaction, academic focus, and mental well-being. Our policy is designed to protect the learning environment from distraction and the pressure of 24/7 connectivity.

2. The Rules

- **Strict Ban:** Mobile phones are **not permitted** to be used, seen, or heard on school premises at any time.

3. Arrival & Storage Procedures

- **Reception Hand-in:** Any pupil bringing a phone to school for travel safety must switch it off and hand it into the Front Office immediately upon arrival. It will be stored safely throughout the day and can be collected at the end of the school day.
- **Once collected:** The mobile should not be used on the school site, including while waiting for the bus. If it is required to be used to contact parents, pupils should go to the Front Office to do this.
- **Brick Phones:** We strongly encourage parents to provide their children with a brick phone rather than a smart phone if they require one for safety on the bus. The bringing of smart phones on buses will stay under review.

4. Smartwatches and Earbuds

- **Smartwatches:** (e.g., Apple Watch, Garmin) that have capabilities to receive messages, record video or audio, or connect to the internet independently are not permitted. Pupils are permitted to wear standard analogue, digital watches or fitness watches that do not have online capabilities.
- **AirPods/headphones:** are not permitted to be worn around the school site. They may be used at times in lessons and study with the permission of the teacher in charge.

5. Contacting Home

- **Pupils:** If a pupil needs to contact a parent during the school day (e.g., for picking up arrangements or a change in sports fixtures), they must go to the Front Office and ask permission to use the school landline.
- **Parents:** Parents are asked strictly **not to text or call their child's mobile** during the school day. Urgent messages should be directed to the School Office, who will relay the information to the pupil.
- **Parents:** We strongly urge parents not to send their child into school with their mobile phone (unless needed on the bus). We ask that they be left at home as there is no need for them to come in with it (unless needed for special arrangements - in which case it must be handed in at the Front Office).

6. Sanctions for Breach of Policy

If a pupil is found in possession of a mobile phone or prohibited device during the school day:

1. **First Offence:** The device will be confiscated immediately and held in a safe place. The pupil may collect it at the end of the day. A double debit and a subsequent lunch-time detention will be issued.
 2. **Second Offence:** The device will be confiscated. It will only be returned to a parent or guardian who must come to the school office to collect it. A double debit and a subsequent evening detention will be issued.
 3. **Refusal to Hand Over:** Refusal to hand over a device when requested by a staff member is treated as a serious disciplinary matter (defiance) and may result in suspension.
 4. A third offence will result in an internal suspension.
- **Searches:** Mobile Phones are listed as a banned item in the school behaviour policy. This gives staff the right to search a pupil if they have reasonable suspicion that a pupil is in possession of their mobile phone or device. Staff should refer to the [searching, screening and confiscation in schools](#) guidance regarding searching a pupil.

7. Exemptions

- **Medical:** Exemptions are only granted for medical monitoring (e.g., diabetes apps) upon receipt of a doctor's letter. In these cases, the phone is a medical device, not a communication tool, and must be used strictly for that purpose.

8. Trips

- **Day Trips:** Phones are not required on any day trips that leave school. If they are required due to the child having alternative travel arrangements on the day, then they must be handed to a member of staff on the trip or kept away at the discretion of the staff member leading the trip. This also applies to those on away fixtures getting picked up from matches who arrived at school on the bus.
- Staff will have a school mobile phone that pupils can use to contact parents for any reason throughout the trip (late arrival etc.). The child will need to bring a copy of the parent's number with them.
- **Residential Trips:** Phones on residential trips are assessed on a case by case basis. Where there are long journeys or an extended trip, then they may be allowed. If they are allowed the teacher will inform the pupils when and where they may be **used, however this will be kept to a minimum. They will be collected at night times.**

9. Staff

- **Staff Mobile Phone Use:** Staff should not use their mobile phones around the pupils. They may be used in the staffroom or in classrooms when the pupils are not present. This allows staff to model good behaviours and empower them when challenging pupils on mobile phone use.

9. Duke of Kent's Smart Phone for Children Charter

- Duke of Kent School strongly believes that in childhood, children should have the chance to be children for as long as possible. The introduction of Smart Phones at a young age has been proven to exacerbate mental health struggles in young people. This is why **Duke of Kent School strongly recommends the delaying of giving a Smart Phone to children for as long as possible.**
- We recommend that should a child need a device to stay in contact when out, or for other reasons, that in the first instance this should be a 'brick' device. Recommended devices are:

Balance Phone: <https://www.thebalancephone.com/>

HMD Phones for Kids: https://www.hmd.com/en_gb/phones-for-kids

- Duke of Kent School is proud to follow the guidance of <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/> We have signed their pact and are part of the Smart Phone Free Childhood Schools Network.
- The school has and will continue to work alongside parents to support them in this journey. The school will hold regular forums and talks about the topic and invite visiting speakers to inform the pupils. Online safety is taught throughout the school in both PSHE and ICT lessons, as well as assemblies. More information can also be found in the school's E-Safety Policy.