



Mobile Phone/Device Policy

Version Control				
Version	Status	Date	Contributor(s)	Change
V1				New policy
V2				To reflect government changes (June 26)

1. Rationale and Principles

At The Gateway School, we prioritise a calm, structured and safe environment that supports pupils' social, emotional and mental health needs.

In line with UK government statutory guidance (June 2026), which prohibits the use of mobile phones in schools during the school day, this school operates a **total ban on mobile device use**.

This approach reflects the needs of an SEMH setting, where unrestricted access to mobile phones can:

- Disrupt learning and therapeutic support
- Increase anxiety, conflict, and emotional dysregulation
- Encourage bullying behaviours
- Present safeguarding risks (e.g. social media misuse, online harm, recording incidents)

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils in Years 7–11
- All mobile devices, including smartphones, smartwatches, and any internet-enabled communication device
- All times during the school day whilst on site

3. Policy Statement

- Pupils are **not permitted to use mobile phones at any time during the school day**.
- Mobile phones must not be seen, heard, or accessed on school premises.
- The school enforces a **total ban on use**, with structured processes for storage.

4. Bringing Mobile Phones into School

- Pupils are **strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones onto school premises**.

- However, we recognise that in some cases linked to transport arrangements, pupils may need to carry a phone during the journey to and from school.
- The school does not accept any responsibility/liability for any loss or damage to mobile devices brought into school by pupils.

5. Transport-Related Arrangements (Mobile Phone Pouches)

5.1 Rationale

Some parents/carers may request that their child has access to a mobile phone during journeys to and from school for safety and reassurance.

5.2 Procedure

- Pupils who bring phones for transport must:
 - Hand their phone to staff on arrival **immediately on entry to school**
 - Place their device in a **secure, lockable mobile phone pouch**
- Phones will:
 - Remain secured in the pouch for the entire school day
 - Not be accessible to pupils during lessons, breaks, or unstructured time
- At the end of the school day:
 - Devices will be returned to pupils for use on the journey home

6. Safeguarding

The restriction of mobile phones supports safeguarding by reducing risks including:

- Cyberbullying
- Access to inappropriate content
- Recording or sharing of images without consent

Any misuse of mobile devices will be addressed in line with the school's **Safeguarding and Behaviour Policies**.

7. Breaches of the Policy

7.1 Standard Breach

- Device confiscated and secured
- Return at the end of the day
- Reminder of expectations

7.2 Repeated Breaches

- Escalated consequences in line with behaviour policy
- Possible requirement to hand in devices daily
- Parent/carer contact
- Potential suspension or further disciplinary action

7.3 Serious Incidents

(e.g. filming, sharing inappropriate content)

- Immediate confiscation
- Safeguarding procedures initiated
- Potential suspension or further disciplinary action

8. Communication with Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Support the school's mobile phone policy
- Contact the school office if they need to reach their child
- Not contact pupils directly during school hours

9. Staff Responsibilities

Staff will:

- Apply this policy consistently
- Support pupils in managing separation from devices
- Facilitate communication with families when required
- Follow safeguarding procedures where concerns arise

10. Implementation

This policy will be:

- Clearly explained to pupils in an accessible format
- Shared with parents/carers
- Embedded within behaviour and safeguarding systems

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to:

- Changes in government guidance
- School operational needs