



## Mobile Phone Policy

### Policy Statement

Nottingham Girls' High School is committed to providing a calm, focused, safe, and productive learning environment in which all students can thrive. Research demonstrates that reducing digital distractions supports improved concentration, memory, academic performance, and wellbeing. Limiting access to mobile phones during the school day also strengthens safeguarding measures and helps to reduce social media-related conflicts and distractions. The Department for Education recommends that schools operate as mobile phone-free environments throughout the school day.

At NGHS, we maintain a culture of trust and responsibility. Rather than relying solely on restrictive measures, we work in partnership with students and parents to encourage healthy digital habits and responsible technology use. Through the use of school-issued digital learning resources, including Chromebooks, students can access educational technology without the need for personal mobile devices during the school day.

Our aim is to protect learning time, promote positive face-to-face interactions, and foster a strong sense of community across the school.

### Scope

This policy applies to all students from Years 7–13 who bring a mobile phone or other personal communication device onto the school site.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance and reflects the requirements introduced by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026. From 29 June 2026, schools in England are required to have regard to statutory government guidance on mobile phone use in schools, which establishes that schools should operate as mobile phone-free environments throughout the school day except in exceptional circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, 'mobile phone' includes smartphones and any personal device capable of communication, internet access, photography, video recording, messaging, or social media use.

The policy applies throughout the school day, including before registration, during lessons, between lessons, at breaktimes, lunchtimes, educational visits, and any other school-organised activities unless a specific exemption has been authorised by the school.

### **Benefits of a Phone-Free School Day**

By supporting a mobile phone-free environment, students benefit from:

- Improved concentration and learning.
- Stronger face-to-face relationships.
- Reduced distraction from notifications and social media.
- Enhanced wellbeing and mental focus.
- Greater engagement in school life.
- A calmer and more inclusive school environment.

## **2. Core Expectation**

### **'Not Seen. Not Heard. Not Used.'**

The school operates a clear and consistent expectation that mobile phones must not be visible, audible, or used during the school day.

#### **Seen = Gone**

If a mobile phone is seen, heard, or used anywhere on the school site during the school day, it will be confiscated immediately.

This expectation applies throughout the school day, including:

- Before registration
- During lessons
- Between lessons
- Breaktimes
- Lunchtimes
- Movement around the school site

There will be no warnings or negotiations regarding confiscation.

### **Bringing Phones to School**

Students may bring a mobile phone to school to support safe travel to and from school.

Upon arrival, students must:

1. Enter the school building.
2. Switch off their mobile phone completely.
3. Store the device securely in their locker.
4. Leave the device untouched until the end of the school day.

Students are responsible for ensuring that their devices are switched off and securely stored.

### **Use of Mobile Phones After School**

#### **General Expectations**

From the end of the school day, mobile phones may be used only where necessary to communicate with parents or carers regarding travel arrangements.

Students participating in after-school activities are expected to keep phones stored in their bags and should not use them for social media, gaming, or recreational purposes while participating in school activities.

#### **Dining Hall and School Facilities**

Where students use a mobile phone for contactless payment after the school day has ended, the device must be returned immediately to their bag once payment has been completed.

Phones should not remain visible in communal areas.

### **Educational Visits, Fixtures and Residential Trips**

#### **Day Visits**

The standard school-day mobile phone rules apply to all educational visits conducted during the school day unless alternative arrangements have been communicated in writing by the Trip Leader.

## **Clubs and Fixtures**

Students attending clubs, practices, or fixtures may use phones only for essential communication with parents or carers.

## **Residential Visits**

Residential trips may include designated phone-free periods to support student wellbeing, sleep, and full engagement in activities. Specific arrangements will be communicated before departure.

## **Sixth Form Students**

As senior members of the school community, Sixth Form students are afforded additional privileges alongside greater responsibility.

Sixth Form students may:

- Use mobile phones within the Sixth Form Centre.
- Use mobile phones during lessons only when specifically authorised by a member of staff.

Sixth Form students must not:

- Use phones in corridors or communal areas outside the Sixth Form Centre.
- Use phones in the presence of younger students.
- Allow phone use to disrupt learning or school activities.

Sixth Form students are expected to model responsible digital behaviour for younger members of the school community.

## **Exemptions**

### **Medical Needs**

Students with verified medical requirements that necessitate access to a mobile phone will be granted appropriate exemptions. Such arrangements will be agreed with the school and documented where necessary.

### **Other Exceptional Circumstances**

Any additional exemptions will be considered on an individual basis by the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Communication with Parents and Carers**

Students who need to contact a parent or carer during the school day must do so through the School Office.

Likewise, parents and carers wishing to contact their child during the school day should do so via the School Office rather than through a student's personal device.

### **Sanctions for Breaches of the Policy during a School Year**

Failure to comply with this policy will result in the following graduated sanctions.

| <b><u>Offence</u></b> | <b><u>Action Taken</u></b>                                                          | <b><u>Device Collection</u></b>                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First Offence</b>  | Immediate confiscation of the device. Sanction given.                               | Student may collect the device at the end of the school day.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Second Offence</b> | Immediate confiscation and formal notification to parents/carers. Detention.        | A parent or guardian may be required to collect the device.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Third Offence</b>  | Student placed on a mandatory daily phone hand-in programme for a specified period. | Device must be handed to the School Office each morning and collected at the end of the day. A meeting with parents/carers and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be arranged. |

The school reserves the right to implement additional sanctions where behaviour is persistent or where the misuse of a device raises safeguarding concerns.

### **Safeguarding and Liability**

The school expects all mobile phone use to align with safeguarding, behaviour, and online safety expectations. Students must not use mobile phones to photograph, record, or communicate in ways that compromise the safety, privacy, or wellbeing of others. Consistent with wider school expectations regarding personal devices, students remain responsible for devices brought onto site, and the school cannot accept responsibility for loss, theft, or damage.