



Mobile Phone Policy

September 2026



RECEPTION
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Poole High School Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Purpose & Grounding

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's updated guidance (**Mobile Phones in Schools, January 2026**), which sets out the expectation that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, with anything other than this being by exception only. The government are introducing a statutory obligation for all schools to maintain a phone-free environment throughout the school day.

The school's approach is further supported by the powers afforded to headteachers under **the Education Act 1996 and The Schools (Specification and Disposal of Articles) Regulations 2012**, which provide a statutory basis for searching and confiscating items, including mobile phones, where school rules have been breached.

Schools also have a duty under the **Equality Act 2010** to make reasonable adjustments where necessary, and this policy recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances in which adaptations are appropriate for specific students, for example, the monitoring of specific medical needs, such as type 1 diabetes and similar acute medical conditions requiring a digital monitor.

This policy reflects Poole High School's commitment to safeguarding, positive behaviour, and an environment free from distraction, in line with **Keeping Children Safe in Education** and the school's own behaviour and child protection policies. Compliance with this policy will be assessed by Ofsted as part of school inspection.

Our Values

The mobile phone policy is underpinned by the core values of:

- **Respect for Pupil Wellbeing and Safeguarding:** The policy places the welfare of pupils at its heart, recognising that unrestricted smartphone access during the school day exposes young people to risks including cyberbullying, harmful content, and online exploitation. By creating a phone-free environment, the school fulfils its duty of care and upholds its commitment to Keeping Children Safe in Education, ensuring that every pupil can learn and socialise in a safe, supported setting.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** By applying a consistent, school-wide approach to mobile phone use, the policy ensures that no pupil is disadvantaged by peer pressure, social comparison, or the distraction caused by others' device use. At the same time, the policy's alignment with the Equality Act 2010 ensures that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with specific needs, reflecting a commitment to fairness and inclusion for all members of the school community.

Policy Summary

Smartphones are a banned item at Poole High School. A small range of specific non-smart phones is permitted, as are a range of tracking devices. A limited number of exceptions apply, such as for medical reasons.

The Mobile Phone Policy

At Poole High School, we believe that mobile phones have no place in the school day. This policy sets out our approach to mobile phone use on the school site and establishes clear expectations for students, parents, and staff.

Our aim is simple: to ensure that every student can learn, socialise, and thrive in an environment free from the distractions and potential harms that smartphone use can bring. We ask that all members of our school community read this policy carefully and support us in upholding it consistently.



Parents who wish their child to carry a mobile handset to school may do so, provided the following conditions are met:

- The handset must be one of the **permitted models** listed below. **No smartphones are permitted.**
- The handset must be **clearly labelled** with the student's name.
- The handset must be **switched off before entering the school site** (beyond the school gates) and stored in the student's bag.
- The handset must remain in the bag and **out of use for the entire school day**, and may only be used once the student has **left the school site** (beyond the school gates) after school.

Permitted non-smartphone handsets are:

- **Nokia 105 4G (no camera version)**
- **AGM M9 4G**
- **Easyfone Prime A6 4G**

The permitted non-smartphone handsets listed above are the only phones which may be brought on school trips.

GPS Tracking Devices: Parents wishing to track their child's journey may send them to school with a small GPS device, such as an AirTag. These are permitted provided they remain in the student's bag at all times.

Confiscation and Consequences (Years 7–11)

Smartphones (banned items)

If a student is found with a smartphone on the school site, the following will apply:

- The device will be **confiscated immediately** and will not be returned until the person with parental responsibility collects it in person from a senior member of staff. Parents/carers will be notified by email to arrange a suitable collection time. **Collection will not take place on the same day** and will be subject to staff availability.
- The student will receive a **60-minute detention**.
- If a student **refuses to hand over** their device, they will be **suspended from school**.

Non-Smartphones (permitted handsets used in breach of policy)

No phone, including permitted handsets, may be used, seen, or heard on the school site during the school day. If a non-smartphone is seen by a member of staff:

First offence:

- The device will be confiscated and returned to the student from the Year Office at the end of the school day.
- The student will receive a **60-minute detention**.

Second offence and beyond:

- The device will be confiscated, and the person with parental responsibility must collect it in person from a senior member of staff. Parents/carers will be notified by email to arrange a suitable collection time. **Collection will not take place on the same day** and will be subject to staff availability.
- The student will receive a **60-minute detention**.

In all cases, if a student **refuses to hand over** their device, they will be **suspended from school**.

Exceptions

Students who require a smart device for medical monitoring purposes, for example, to manage a diabetes-related condition, may be granted an exemption. Parents or carers who believe their child requires such an arrangement should contact the school through the SEN contact form in the first instance. They will be invited to meet with a member of staff to discuss and formally agree on the appropriate provision. <https://poolehigh.co.uk/contact-the-school>

Post-16

Confiscation and Consequences (Sixth Form only)

Smartphones are permitted for sixth-form students; however, they may not be used, seen, or heard outside the sixth-form **Merchants Hall, the only permitted venue for their use.**

If a sixth form phone is seen by a member of staff:

First offence:

- The device will be confiscated and returned to the student from the Sixth Form office at the end of the school day.

Second offence and beyond:

- The device will be confiscated, and the person with parental responsibility must collect it in person from a senior member of staff. Parents/carers will be notified by email to arrange a suitable collection time. **Collection will not take place on the same day** and will be subject to staff availability.
- The student will receive a **60-minute detention.**

If a sixth-form student refuses to hand over their phone, they will be suspended from school.