



USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOL POLICY

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1.0	01.04.2026	New Policy – in line with national guidance- February 2026

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of all members of our community. It sets out the expectations and procedures for prohibiting the use of mobile phones and similar smart technology during the school day. This is essential in establishing and maintaining high standards of behaviour and ensuring that the school is a calm and safe environment for all students and staff.

This policy has been written in line with national guidance.

Mobile phones and similar smart technology are defined as:

- Personal mobile phones
- Devices that can send/receive notifications, messages, calls or access the internet
- Devices that can record audio or video

This policy applies to all students during the school day, including lessons, transition times, breaktimes and lunchtime.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students enrolled at the school, including those from other schools using the school's facilities
- All school days, including authorised activities on site
- School trips and residential visits unless specifically exempted by the trip lead to preserve student safety and education experience.

3. Use of electronic devices

The use of mobile phones, and similar smart technology including smart watches is prohibited within the school – students must not use or access mobile phones or similar smart devices whilst on the school grounds. Whilst the school acknowledges that students may bring phones on site for safety reasons (for example travelling to and from school), they must be switched off and out of site in students' bags throughout the school day. Students must place phones / other smart technology in bags before entering the school site in a morning and only access them once they have left the school site at the end of the school day. Students are responsible for their own devices; the school is not liable for loss, theft or damage. Mount St Joseph is a mobile phone-free environment by default. Anything other than this is by exception only.

4. Communication of the policy

The prohibiting the use of electronic devices in school policy will be published on the school website and shared regularly in the school newsletter, including at the start of each academic year. Regular reminders will be provided to students during personal development time and assemblies.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Staff – All staff (including teaching staff, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for consistently enforcing the school's policy. Staff should not use their own mobile phones (and similar smart technology) for personal reasons in front of students throughout the school day. It may be necessary for staff to use mobile phones (and similar smart technology) for work purposes on occasions. Staff should ensure that students are taught the benefits of having a mobile phone-free environment and that they are encouraged to see such an environment as desirable and valuable.

Students – All students should comply with the school's policy and the consequences in relation to the policy. Students should have a clear understanding of the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones (and similar smart technology), both in school and more broadly.

Parents / Carers – Parents / Carers should reinforce and discuss the policy at home, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment. If parents need to contact their child during the school day, they are required to contact the school office.

6. Sanctions

Where students breach this policy, appropriate sanctions will be implemented in line with the school's behaviour policy. Where the incident relates only to the use of a mobile phone / similar smart technology (including a student using a phone, or the mobile phone being heard in a student's bag), the mobile phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Should there be a persistent failure or refusal by a student to adhere to this policy, other consequences may be introduced in line with the school's behaviour policy. Sanctions will be proportionate, individual circumstances will be considered and applied fairly.

7. Searching students

The Headteacher (or staff authorised by the Headteacher) has the statutory power to search a student or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the student is in possession of a prohibited item (including mobile phones) or any item identified as a prohibited item within the school's behaviour policy.

8. Adaptions and reasonable adjustments

The school recognises duties under the Equality Act 2010 and other statutory guidance. Adjustments to the policy will be made where necessary for students with disabilities, students requiring a mobile phone for medical reasons and other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Headteacher.

However, the flexibility for individual students should not mean that the students are exempt from all restrictions on the use of their mobile phones.

9. The use of mobile phones outside of the school day

The use of mobile phones (and similar smart technology) on school trips or residential visits may be prohibited or restricted where necessary to ensure the education experience is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones. Decisions surrounding the use of mobile phones (and similar smart technology) during these times will be communicated in advance.

10. Conclusion

Mount St Joseph is committed to maintaining a calm, focused, and safe learning environment. A mobile phone-free school supports students' wellbeing, concentration, and positive relationships, ensuring all can thrive academically and personally.