



Our ref: THA/NTR/LHE

30th June 2026

Re: Mobile Phones

As we enter the final three weeks of the summer term ahead of our final day on 17th July, we want to thank you for your continued partnership in making our school a focused, positive environment.

We are writing to share an update regarding mobile devices. As you know, our school introduced a mobile-free rule over two years ago. Because our students have practiced this so well, very little will change in their day-to-day routine. However, at a national level, the government has updated its education framework, placing mobile-phone-free environments on a statutory footing across England. To ensure we remain fully aligned with these official regulations, please find a clear reminder of our updated "Gate to Gate" policy below.

The "Gate to Gate" Rule: What is Allowed?

- **Devices Covered:** This applies to all mobile phones and smartwatches with notification/messaging capabilities.
- **Off and Away:** Devices must be invisible, switched completely off (not on silent or vibrate) and kept inside school bags.
- **Timeline:** This applies from the exact moment students enter the school gates until the end of the school day, including all lessons, changeovers, break times, and lunchtimes.

Mandated Exceptions (SEND and Medical Needs)

In strict compliance with the Equality Act and national guidance, reasonable adjustments will always be made for students who require their devices for medical or accessibility reasons. Note: If your child uses a device to manage a medical condition (e.g., continuous blood glucose monitoring for diabetes) or as a designated SEND communication tool, please contact our SEND team directly so we can issue an official exemption pass.

Keeping in Touch Safely

We understand that not having direct contact with your child can cause anxiety. Please be assured that communication pathways remain fully open:

- **To reach your child:** Call the main school office on 01709 542147, and our team will deliver the message
- **For your child to reach home:** Students can safely visit the attendance, pastoral, or reception desks at any break time to contact you.



What happens if a mistake is made?

We know that students sometimes forget to turn off a device. If a phone rings or is seen out accidentally, it will be safely confiscated by a staff member and stored securely at SDP until the end of the day, when the student can collect it.

By maintaining a phone-free environment, we protect our young people's mental wellbeing, eliminate social media distraction during peer interactions, and maximise learning.

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Mr T Hardcastle
Headteacher



Mrs N Tipper
Associate Headteacher