



The Royal School

Wolverhampton

Date 4/09/26

RE: Mobile Phones and Smart Devices

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the new academic year, I am writing to outline significant changes to our expectations regarding mobile phones, headphones and other smart devices at The Royal School.

These changes follow a review of our own practices, our Behaviour Policy, and the Department for Education's guidance, which states that schools should be ' **mobile phone-free environments** ' and should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including lessons, social times, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

At The Royal School, our priority is to provide a calm, focused, respectful and distraction-free learning environment where all students can thrive. We also believe that schools have an important role to play in protecting young people from the increasing risks associated with smartphones, social media and online harms.

Why are we making these changes?

Nationally, there is growing concern regarding the impact of smartphones and social media on young people's wellbeing, mental health, concentration, sleep, relationships and safety. The Government recently announced its intention to ban social media platforms from offering services to under-16s, stating that social media is making children unhappy, increasing exposure to bullying and online harm, and taking time away from healthy childhood experiences.

The Government's position is clear: children need more time for real-world friendships, physical activity, learning and family life, and less time spent scrolling, receiving notifications, and engaging with social media platforms.

Our Recommendation

We strongly recommend that any student who requires a phone for travel to and from school is provided with a '**brick phone**' (a basic mobile phone without internet access, apps, social media or smartphone functionality).

These devices allow essential communication with parents and carers whilst significantly reducing exposure to online risks and distractions.

Mobile Phones

From September 2026, **The Royal School will operate a strict no-phone policy during the school day.**

Students may bring a phone to school for travel purposes, but:

- Mobile phones must remain switched off, in bags and out of sight at all times. This must be done before they enter the school site.
- Students are not permitted to use, handle, display or access a mobile phone anywhere on site during the school day.
- This applies before school, during lessons, between lessons, at breaktime, lunchtime and after school whilst on site.

If a student is seen with a mobile phone, or is found using a mobile phone:

Smartphone

- The device will be confiscated immediately.
- It will be securely stored by the school.
- It will not be returned until **a 30-minute detention has been served after school the following Monday evening.**
- A parent or carer may collect the device after school, but a detention will remain in place, and the device will be handed into pastoral staff at the start of each day, until the following Monday.

Brick Phone

- The device will be confiscated.
- The student will serve a same-day detention.
- The phone will be returned at the end of that detention.

Headphones, Earbuds and Similar Devices

Students are not permitted to wear headphones, earbuds or similar devices around school.

If a student is seen wearing headphones or earbuds, staff will assume that they are connected to, or being used in conjunction with, a mobile phone.

As a result:

- Both the headphones and the mobile phone will be confiscated.
- Both items will be stored securely until **a 30 minute detention has been served after school the following Monday evening.**
- A parent or carer may collect the devices after school, but a detention will remain in place, and the devices will be handed into pastoral staff at the start of each day, until the following Monday.

Sixth Form Students

We recognise that Sixth Form students have different study requirements and greater independence as they prepare for higher education, apprenticeships and employment. However, Sixth Form students are still members of our school community and are expected to model the standards we expect from younger students.

As a result, the same mobile phone expectations and confiscation procedures apply to all Sixth Form students.

The only exception is that Sixth Form students may use mobile phones and headphones within the following designated Sixth Form areas:

- Sixth Form Study Base
- Sixth Form Common Room
- Library
- Victoria Hall

These are the only locations on the school site where Sixth Form students may use mobile phones, headphones or earbuds during the school day. Outside of these designated areas, all mobile phones and headphones must remain out of sight and not in use, and the same confiscation procedures and sanctions outlined in this letter will apply.

Safeguarding and Learning

These procedures are not intended as a punishment but as a safeguard.

We know that mobile phones can:

- Disrupt learning and classroom focus.
- Create opportunities for cyberbullying.
- Expose young people to inappropriate content.
- Increase anxiety and social pressures.
- Divert attention away from healthy friendships and face-to-face interactions.

The Department for Education advises that removing mobile phones from the school day creates calmer environments, reduces distractions, improves behaviour and supports students' wellbeing.

Working Together

The success of this policy depends upon the support of parents and carers.

We appreciate that many families wish their children to have a means of communication when travelling to and from school. For this reason, we strongly encourage the use of basic "brick phones" where possible and ask parents to carefully consider whether a smartphone is necessary for their child.

By working together, we can create an environment where students are fully present, focused on their learning, and protected from many of the pressures associated with smartphones and social media.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining the high standards and strong values that make The Royal School a safe, calm and successful place to learn.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr J Crook
Vice Principal
The Royal School Wolverhampton**