



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Smartphone and Smart Device 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 Bournemouth School for Girls' 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 and other smart devices are a banned item at Bournemouth School for Girls. 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 Bournemouth School for Girls, 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 not be capable of taking photographs or connecting to the internet.
No smartphones or smartwatches 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.

The only phones permitted are those recommended by the school. An initial list can be found in the appendix, but given the nature of the technology, this is likely to evolve over time. The definitive list of acceptable devices will be maintained on the school website.

Only phones listed may be brought on **domestic** school trips. Arrangements for **overseas** visits will be notified as part of the trip communication.

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:

First offence:

- 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**.

Second offence and beyond:

- 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. **The smartphone will be confiscated for a period to be determined by the school.**
- The student will receive a **sanction to be determined by the school**.
- 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.

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 Pastoral Hub 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 their daughter's Head of House.

Other smart devices

Pupils in Years 7-11 are not permitted to use or bring to school other internet enabled devices such as smartwatches, laptops or tablets (unless permission has been granted on the basis of medical or special educational needs).

Post-16

Allowing students in Years 12 and 13 to use smart devices is a **privilege linked to maturity, responsibility and academic need**, rather than an unrestricted right. The use of such devices is limited to certain times and locations and must not undermine the school's wider smart device policy. Any such devices are brought onto the school site at the student's own risk. Smart devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts learning, compromises safeguarding, infringes privacy, undermines the school's values, interferes with the wellbeing of others, or brings the school into disrepute.

Confiscation and Consequences (Sixth Form only)

Smartphones are permitted for sixth form students; however, they may not be used, seen, or heard outside the following areas:

- The Sixth Form Common Room
- The Sixth Form Study Centre
- The Sixth Form Exhibition space

During lesson time only:

- The Library
- The Dining Room
- In classrooms being used for private study

In lessons:

Phones must be in silent mode and out of sight unless the class teacher has specifically sanctioned use for educational purposes.

If a sixth form phone is seen by a member of staff outside the areas/times described above:

First offence:

- The device will be confiscated and returned to the student from the Sixth Form office at the end of the school day (3.35pm).

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 may 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**.

Appendix 1

Definition of a Smart Device

For the purposes of this policy, a **smart device** means any electronic, digital, networked, connected, wearable, portable, implanted, embedded, or future-developed device that is capable of one or more of the following functions, whether directly or through connection to another device,

network, service, application, cloud platform, artificial intelligence system, or communications infrastructure:

1. Accessing, transmitting, receiving, storing, processing, displaying, generating, or sharing information through the internet;
2. Sending, receiving, or displaying messages, notifications, alerts, emails, social media content, or other communications through the internet;
3. Capturing, recording, transmitting, storing, processing, generating, or reproducing photographs, images, video, audio, voice, biometric data, location data, or any other personal or environmental data;
4. Supporting web browsing, social networking, gaming, streaming, artificial intelligence services, digital assistants, applications, software platforms, or other interactive digital services;
5. Enabling voice, video, text, data, wireless, satellite, near-field, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, cellular, or any equivalent current or future form of electronic communication, **except** for basic voice calls and SMS text messaging on an approved basic mobile phone
6. Providing functionality substantially equivalent to, or greater than, that commonly associated with a smart phone.

Smart devices include, but are not limited to, smart phones, internet-enabled mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, augmented reality devices, virtual reality devices, wearable computers, connected fitness devices, tablets, handheld internet-enabled devices, and any future technology possessing similar capabilities.

A device shall be regarded as a smart device regardless of its size, form factor, method of wear, method of interaction, operating system, or whether particular functions have been disabled, restricted, filtered, supervised, or are not routinely used.

For the avoidance of doubt, a device whose functions are limited solely to basic voice calls and/or SMS text messaging, and which is incapable of internet access, application installation, audio or video recording, photography, digital content creation, social media access, or equivalent smart functionality, shall not be considered a smart device under this policy.

Definition of a Permitted Tracking Device

'Permitted tracking device' means a small location tag with no screen, camera, microphone, speaker (other than a limited alert sound used solely to locate the tag), messaging function, web browsing access or app capability, used only for locating property or supporting travel safety. Misuse of any such device will be considered a behavioural and/or safeguarding matter and treated under the relevant School policies.

Scope

This policy applies from the point a student enters the school site until they leave it, and during any school-organised activity, trip, fixture, examination, visit or supervised off-site activity, unless specific alternative arrangements have been approved.

Appendix 2

Permitted phones (initial list September 2026)

- Nokia 105 4G (no camera version)
- Easyfone Prime A6 4G
- Maxcom MM135LITE Classic
- Artfone F30 4G
- Uleway T190 4G