

Mobiles phones & smart technology - 'Never used, never seen, never heard on the school site' from 17th June 2024

FAQs for parents and carers (NB this document supports the full letter explaining the new approach at HSS including notes around exceptions for KS5 students)

Question	Notes for parents and carers
Can students use phones on school trips?	<p>Phone use on school trips during the school day will be the same as in school i.e. <i>students will be able to have phones with them, switched off and in their bags, but not use them on the trip.</i> This includes using phones on the coach and for taking photographs.</p> <p>Mobile phone restrictions also apply during Sports Day and the High Storrs Hike</p> <p>If a student wishes to take photos, they may bring a digital / disposable camera.</p> <p>If a trip that runs during the school day is set to return after the end of the school day, students will be able to use their phones on the return journey to text families about the time of their return.</p> <p>Phones will still be permitted on after school / weekend / residential trips, with guidance from staff as to what is appropriate – these are the same as the rules that currently apply to after school / residential trips.</p>
My child uses their phone to support a medical condition – how is this affected by the policy?	<p>If your child uses a phone to support a medical condition, please inform their House Team/Head of Year who will work with them to add details to a termly pass. The device must only be used for this purpose</p>
What happens if I need to get a message to my child during the school day?	<p>If you have an urgent need to get a message to your child, telephone school reception. They will write down your message and pass it to your child.</p> <p>Please note this is for emergencies – most children will likely still have a phone in their bag that they can check as they leave the school site at the end of the day for any messages from you that have arrived during the school day.</p>
What happens if my child needs to phone me during the school day?	<p>Students can either go to their House Office (Y7-11) or the Sixth Form Office (Y12-13). Pastoral colleagues will be able to contact parents/carers to share urgent messages. Equally, students can go to Student Reception in an emergency and ask to use the telephone there.</p>
My child checks their timetable on their phone – how can they do this from 17 th June?	<p>Students will be issued with paper timetables at the start of the year and when there are any changes. They will be invited to copy this across onto a small card for day-to-day reference. They can still check the Satchel One timetable at home to prepare for the next school day.</p>
My child uses their phone instead of wearing a watch – how will they know the time?	<p>There are clocks in most classrooms and spaces. The screens on the corridors also show the time. We have ordered even more clocks for the new school year.</p>
My child pays for their food in the Dining Room using their phone – what will they do now?	<p>From Monday 17th June, all students should ensure they have alternative means of paying for any food purchased on the school site. This may be using a debit card or their fingerprint through the biometrics.</p>

School shares reminders for detentions via Satchel One – my child will not be able to see them if they cannot check their phone?	All after school detentions that are longer than 15 minutes are scheduled the previous school day at the very latest. Students will still be able to access this information after school. Daily late detentions now run the following lunchtime in Nu08. Again, students are reminded of this on the late gate and can check satchel to confirm that evening outside of school
My child checks their homework on Satchel One – what will they do now?	Students should continue to check Satchel on their phone, computer or tablet at home where they will undertake the homework. They can also access their Satchel account on school computers in several locations, including the LRC (library) and Learning Support if they attend homework club.
Can my child still wear a smartwatch?	Smartwatches are not allowed in school as they enable students to access many of the smart phone functions linked to a phone in the school bag. This causes the same unnecessary distractions and other issues associated with mobile phone use in school. Smart watches are already banned from all examination venues.
Where can I find the updated policies?	The updated policy on mobile phone use is incorporated in our behaviour policy and safeguarding policies on the school's website. This includes the HSS non-negotiables that are shared regularly with all students.
Can my child still use the BYOD (bring your own device) scheme?	The BYOD scheme is for students with SEND and/ or Sixth Formers. The device should be a laptop or tablet (i.e. not a mobile phone). Students should speak to Learning Support or the Sixth Form Office if they wish to be part of the BYOD scheme.
My child is coming to summer school – can they use their phone during summer school?	No. The same rule of “ never used, seen or heard ” applies to the Y6 summer school. If parents have an urgent need to get a message to their child, telephone school reception. This is just for emergencies.
Can my child take their phone to the Y13 or Y11 Prom?	Yes – but all the rules around taking and sharing images apply (<i>i.e. students cannot take pictures or videos without permission of others, should not share on social media without consent of all in image</i>).