

Mobile Phone Policy – Students

...with effect from 13th April 2026

Rationale

Mobile phones and other smart devices are now a routine part of everyday life for many young people. While these devices can offer benefits, their presence in school can present significant challenges, including distraction from learning, reduced social interaction, and potential safeguarding concerns.

Southend High School for Boys is committed to ensuring that the school environment supports pupils' wellbeing, concentration and positive relationships. Limiting the use of mobile phones during the school day helps pupils to remain focused on their learning, engage fully in school life and interact positively with their peers and staff.

This policy reflects updated guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) which advises schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

In line with this guidance, Southend High School for Boys expects that mobile phones and similar devices will not be used or visible during the school day, with limited exceptions as outlined in this policy.

This approach supports the school's wider aims of promoting a calm, focused and respectful learning environment for all pupils.

The use of mobile phones

Years 7–11

Mobile phones must not be visible or used at any time during the school day (8:30am – 3:30pm). This includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

During this time phones should be switched off and kept in school bags. Headphones and other listening devices should also not be visible.

Sixth Form (Years 12–13)

Students in Years 12 and 13 may use their mobile phones only within designated Sixth Form areas, including the Sixth Form block, the Sixth Form area in the library, and within lessons, where permitted by staff.

Sixth Form students should not use mobile phones, headphones, or other listening devices in areas where younger pupils are present.

Examinations

Mobile phones must never be taken into a room where an examination is taking place.

Exceptions

Exceptions may be made in limited circumstances, including:

- Medical needs (for example diabetes monitoring)
- Contacting home when supervised and authorised by a member of staff
- Headphones may be used where required for lessons (e.g. music, watching videos on school computers)

Smart watches and other devices

Smart watches fall under the same rules as mobile phones. If a smart watch is used to communicate, access messages, or record audio or video, it will be treated as a breach of this policy.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Bring Your Own Device arrangements apply mainly within the Sixth Form. Any personal device used under BYOD arrangements must follow the same restrictions and expectations as mobile phones.

Sanctions for inappropriate use

If a mobile phone is seen or used inappropriately it will be confiscated and taken to the relevant Pastoral Office (or the Main Office if this is not possible). It can be collected from the Pastoral Office at the end of the school day.

Further offences may result in additional sanctions and incidents will be recorded and monitored by Pastoral Teams in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

Responsibility of the school

Bringing any communication device – including a mobile phone – to school is a choice.

Southend High School for Boys accepts no responsibility whatsoever for the loss or damage of any such items that are brought to school.