

Mobile Phone Policy

Beverley High School



Date: March 2026

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Mobile Phone Policy (Years 7-11)

Mobile phones are a part of modern society; however, there are many concerns regarding the impact of phones on mental health, particularly on anxiety and depression;¹ attention spans; learning and cyber bullying. Research also indicates that the latter is more serious with girls and the 'reported prevalence rates of cyberbullying at age 15 were almost double those for 11-year olds'². It is also believed that 'Almost a quarter of young people are so dependent on their smartphones that it becomes like an addiction, suggests research by psychiatrists'.³ Our recent surveys also indicate that parents, staff and students are concerned about the impact of mobile phones.

In February 2026 the Department for Education has taken the following action and stated that 'All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default' and that schools should prohibit 'the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones... throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.'

When is the use of a mobile phone forbidden?

- 1) Mobile phones must be not seen or heard from arrival to school in the morning to the end of the day when the students leave the school buildings.
- 2) Mobile phones must be kept switched off prior to entering the school site and in the bottom of the student's bag.
- 3) Mobile device use is banned for everyone during transit times – lesson crossover, entering/exiting classrooms, lining up, moving classrooms, on the stairs etc.
- 4) Phones cannot be used whilst walking around the school during social times.
- 5) Pupils are not permitted to listen to music in lessons; a headphone pass is for noise reduction ear loops.
- 6) Photographs and videos cannot be taken under any circumstances.
- 7) Mobile phones must remain disconnected from smartwatches at all times. Smartwatches should be used only for standard timekeeping functions.

When can a mobile phone be used?

- 1) After 3.15pm once outside of the school buildings, students may check their phone for communication from parents / carers.
- 2) The use of the mobile phone is allowed when it is used for medical reasons as recorded in an Individual Healthcare Plan.
- 3) In emergency situations, staff will provide a supervised space for the student to access their phone.
- 4) In the LRC after 3.15pm to allow students to check their homework and to communicate with their parents/carers about collection under the direction of staff.
- 5) Mobile devices can be used in after school clubs at the **explicit** instruction of a member of staff this is to allow students to organise transport home.

¹ Education research report March 2016 '*Study links mobile device addiction to depression and anxiety*'

² Public Health England '*Cyberbullying: An analysis of data from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey for England, 2014*'

³ Sean Coughlan BBC News family and education correspondent, Smartphone 'addiction': Young people 'panicky' when denied mobiles

How will this policy be enforced?

The use of a phone contrary to this policy will result in the confiscation of the mobile until the end of the day. If a smart watch is allowing notifications and access to mobile apps, their watch will be confiscated. Students will not be given a warning.⁴ In the first instance the student may collect their phone at the end of the school day. Any further incidents will result in the student losing their phone during school hours for the following 5 days. The student will be issued with an information slip which explains how their phone will be confiscated and it is their responsibility to hand their phone in or provide correspondence from parents / carers to explain that their phone has been left at home. The student will use the mobile phone lockers to hand in their phone at 8.40am and collect at 3.15pm. Failure to do so will result in a loss of social time and an additional day for confiscation of their phone.

Use of a Mobile Phone on a School Trip

Please refer to the Educational Visit Policy.

The use of social media

The widespread availability and use of social media and social networking applications bring opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with a variety of audiences. The use of social media has implications for our duty to safeguard children. The school cannot take responsibility for activity on social media. Parents assume responsibility for their child's behaviour in this regard. However, Beverley High School will not tolerate bullying and will investigate the misuse of social media as necessary. Further action may be taken by parents / carers or the school, whereby external agencies including the Police may be contacted. We encourage parents / carers to screenshot the abuse/ bullying and to report it to the Year Leader or a member of SLT. Action will also be taken if we believe that the use of social media is placing a young person at immediate risk. Sanctions will also be imposed if social media brings Beverley High School into disrepute. The following sanctions will be used for the inappropriate use of social media; confiscation of the phone during school hours for a length of time which is appropriate for level of social media misuse; after school detention; internal isolation and for more serious cases a suspension or permanent exclusion.

The school will provide a variety of opportunities for students to learn about the negative impact of social media; assemblies; discussion topics in form time; through schemes of work in Computer Science; PHSE mornings and the Personal Development aspects of the Super Curriculum.

⁴ Pupils are not given a warning as this may lead to inconsistencies with how the policy is embedded and applied. One of our main aims is to be consistent and fair in our approach.