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Headteacher: Mrs T Burnside

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Change to Mobile Phone Policy

I am writing to provide details about our new mobile phone policy that begins on **Monday 23 February 2026**.

As you may be aware, there has been a lot of information in the news recently regarding children and their use of mobile phones.

Bridget Phillipson (Secretary of State for Education) has contacted schools and has given this message:

'*I have always been clear that mobile phones have no place in schools - I know many of you feel the same. But it is clear that the previous guidance did not deliver the clarity or consistency that schools need or help enough in setting out for parents that this is a clear national position. That is why we have strengthened it to be explicit - all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. That includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. It means, for example, it is not appropriate for phones to be used as calculators, or for research during lesson.*'

Due to this strengthening of Government guidance, we have had to change our existing policy to bring our procedures in line with expectations.

We know adjustments take time, and our goal is to make things as smooth as possible for everyone. I would therefore like to explain how the policy will be implemented on a day-to-day basis at school, including the procedure for the confiscation of phones by staff members.

Our full mobile phone policy will be available on our website soon. To make things clear and concise, I would like to summarise a few key points from the policy in this letter:

- **Students must keep their mobile phones invisible and silent at all times. Mobile phones are not to be seen or heard throughout the whole of the school premises.**
- '**Invisible and silent at all times**' includes time in school before or after the official school day.
- Wireless headphones, in any form, must be **invisible and silent at all times** while on school premises.
- Smartwatches for example the Apple Watch, can be used to access the features of a smartphone, such as reading and replying to notifications, and, as such, must be **invisible and silent at all times**.
- Our mobile phone policy will also be applicable during school trips and visits that take place during the school day. Use may be allowed at certain times as and when directed by a member of staff.

If a device is seen, it will be confiscated by a staff member and stored securely:

Incident	Action
The first incident in a school half term	The phone will be confiscated, stored securely, and can be collected by the student from reception at the end of the school day.
The second incident in a school half term	The phone will be confiscated, stored securely, and can be collected by the student from reception at the end of the school day. The student will also be issued an after-school detention.
The third incident in a school half term	The phone will be confiscated, stored securely, and parents will be contacted to arrange collection of the mobile phone.
If there are more than three incidents in a school half term then the student will have to hand their phone into reception when they arrive to school in a morning and collect it at the end of the school day, for the remainder of the school half term.	

We understand how important mobile phones are for staying connected with family outside of school. For this reason, rather than imposing a complete ban on phones, students can keep their phones **turned off and stored securely in their bags** whilst at school. However, please note that bringing a mobile phone to school is at the student's own risk and the school does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged devices.

We encourage you to discuss this change with your child and ensure they understand the expectations. From 23 February 2026, making last-minute changes like pick-up arrangements might be trickier. It's a good idea to chat with your child now about how you'll handle things like this during the school day.

We are confident that this change will create a more focused and positive learning environment for all students and support our students in enjoying each other's company at breaks and lunches in a device free environment. Please see additional information in our frequently asked questions below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

T. Burnside

Tracey Burnside
Headteacher

Ofsted Good Provider

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Guidance
How can I contact my child in an emergency?	Parents can reach the school by calling our main line at 01246 450825, by emailing info@wgs.derbyshire.sch.uk, or by the Arbor app.
How can my child contact home in an emergency?	If students need to contact a parent or guardian, they can request to do so at Main Reception.
My child uses a smartphone to monitor health conditions	Should a student require the use of mobile phone technology to manage a medical condition (e.g. Type 1 diabetes), this will be allowed, and the student will be issued with a permit card.
My child uses their phone to tell the time	We encourage all students to wear a traditional watch (not a smart watch).
My child uses their phone to access their school timetable	Students are given a paper copy of their timetable, and they should also write their timetable into their planner so that they have easy access to their timetable throughout the day.
Will my child still be able to use their phone during lessons e.g. use of phone as a camera or calculator?	No, phones cannot be used in any lessons.
My child uses their phone to occupy them at break times?	We encourage students to socialise with their peers and take part in other activities. Mobile phone use during break/lunch time will not be permitted **anywhere** on the school premises.
If confiscated, will my child's phone be stored securely?	Yes. A system for recording and storing mobile devices has been implemented. All confiscated devices will be locked away in a secure location.