



27TH March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with the DfE expectation around mobile phones in schools to be mobile – device – free spaces, after the Easter holiday, we will be introducing a strengthened approach to mobile phone use at The Appleton School. This is to ensure a calm, focused, and purposeful learning environment for all students. Students have been pre-warned of the upcoming changes through presentations in tutor time and the message will be further reinforced in assemblies led by the Senior Leadership Team on 13th April 2026.

With effect from 13 April 2026, mobile phones must not be seen or used anywhere on the school site at any time. This includes social time and movement time when students are leaving or entering the school buildings and as they are walking to and from school buildings across the playgrounds. Before a student comes through the Student Services entrance on Croft Road or the back gate, Merton Road, **their phone must be switched off and stored in their bag** until they are completely offsite at the end of each day.

Our expectations are clear:

- Phones must be switched off
- Phones must be stored securely in school bags and not in blazer pockets
- Phones must not be kept in any other pockets or taken out during the school day
- If a student arrives without a school bag, they will be scanned to ensure they do not have a mobile device in their pocket

If a phone is seen, heard, or used (or even seen as the outline in pocket):

- The teacher will request the phone
- The student must hand it over immediately
- The phone will be confiscated and taken to school safe
- The incident will be logged, and a letter sent home
- If it is a first offence, the student may collect their phone at 3:00pm the same day
- If a student has their phone confiscated more than once it must be collected by a parent/carer or nominated adult only
- A third offence will lead to an outright ban for the remainder of the school year and random screening searches during the ban period.

If a student is seen using their phone while leaving the school site, but still on the premises, their name will be recorded, and their phone will be confiscated the following day.

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If a student refuses to hand over their phone:

- The phone will be confiscated by someone from the Senior Leadership Team
- The student will receive a higher tariff sanction, including:
 - Behaviour points
 - A suspension
 - Outright ban on mobile devices for the rest of the school year

Rationale

Mobile phones are a significant distraction in schools and are increasingly becoming one of the leading behaviour issues nationally. This is not unique to our school. Even when not in use, phones in pockets or blazers can distract students when they vibrate or receive notifications. Our priority is to ensure that all students are fully focused during lesson time, free from unnecessary distractions, and able to engage positively with their learning.

Communication during the school day

If a student needs to contact home in an emergency, they can go to Student Services where staff will help facilitate this. Likewise, if you need to contact your child urgently, please do so via the Student Services office and we will ensure the message is passed on. Please do not message your child in school time as this is unfair on them.

Sixth Form

Sixth form students are permitted to use their phones only within the Sixth Form block. We recognise their increasing independence and have a designated space for appropriate phone use. Our current data shows no issues with mobile phone use in sixth form; however, this will be monitored. If sixth form students are seen with their phones out in corridors or in the main school, they too will be confiscated.

We also have further details including FAQs on this update to our policy, link [here](#)

We ask for your full support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. By working together, we can ensure a more focused and positive school environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms J Everett
Deputy Headteacher

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