

The Maynard School

Student Mobile Phone Policy and Procedures

Independent Day School for Girls

SEPTEMBER 2024

This policy applies to all students from EYFS to KS4 inclusive and should be read in conjunction with the:

-Behaviour Policy

-Wellbeing Policy

-DfE's 'Mobile Phones In Schools Guidance' (2024)

CONTEXT: In the Department for Education's 2024 guidance on mobile phone use in schools the problematic nature of phone use and their very clear guidance to schools was made evident.

Every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. One of the greatest challenges facing schools is the presence of mobile phones.

Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. One in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission. This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning. We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom.

We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils have experienced bullying online. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices. This is why we are determined that all schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day – not only during lessons but break and lunchtimes as well.

At *The Maynard School* we place wellbeing and a feeling of safety at the heart of our approach; we want our students to feel safe in our environment and for this environment to be one of learning and fun without unnecessary distraction.

Aims: To create a safe phone free environment in which girls can be free from the possible distraction, pressures, and dangers of social media and online abuse. We will, of course teach students how to navigate such issues through our robust PHSE programme, we will not be ignorant to the issues and benefits mobile phones can provide us with, but we will be happily free from such issues whilst at the school.

Our Expectations:

- Throughout our Junior and Senior School phone use is not permitted.
- We encourage students not to bring mobile phones onto the school premises.
- If a phone is on the school premises then it should be turned off and in a bag / locker.
- A mobile phone should not be heard / visible / used at all throughout the school day without the permission of a member of staff. We will never expect Reception to Upper Three students to have any use for a mobile phone throughout the school day.

Further Considerations:

- Parents and carers need to be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to students having a mobile phone in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks such as potential for theft, bullying, and inappropriate contact and content.
- We would also like to alert parents and carers to the risks that using a mobile phone has while travelling to and from school. Children who are concentrating on using their phone can have reduced general safety awareness which may result in accidents and/or injury if a child is not paying attention to their surroundings.
- If a member of staff has any suspicion that a mobile phone brought into school by a student has unsuitable material stored on it, the student will be required to hand over the phone immediately to a member of staff and parents or carers will be asked to collect it from a member of the senior leadership team. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile phone may provide evidence relating to possible harm / danger the phone will be handed over to the DSL or Head for further review (please see our search and confiscation policy for more information).

Sanctions:

- If a student contravenes any of the expectations around phone use then they will receive an automatic detention.
- If a student contravenes any of the expectations around phone use then their mobile phone will be confiscated by the member of staff who witnesses the contravention. It will need to be picked up at reception at the end of the school day.
- If the expectations are broken for a second time then that student will receive an afterschool detention and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the school week.
- If expectations are continually ignored then further sanctions may be implemented according to our behaviour policy and as per the discretion of the Head.

We feel that these steps enable our students to learn how to use and navigate their behaviour around such devices in the most appropriate way and gives power to our families to decide what might be most appropriate for their daughters – without any pressure to need devices for school, or to need them in their lives until they are ready.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the DSL and the Headteacher.

Last Reviewed – Sep 2025.

Appendix One – Mobile Phone Use in the Sixth Form

Overview: By the time a student gets to Sixth Form age and has been through our PHSE lessons on appropriate use of devices we feel that girls are better able to manage and navigate the use of mobile phones. We understand that many want to use them as a useful tool for education and as such our expectations for KS5 use of mobile phones are different and outlined below.

Expectations:

- Sixth Formers may use their devices in Sixth Form communal areas namely, Ryan House, the Sixth Form Bistro, the Rose Garden and the Garden of Reflection.
- Teachers may allow Sixth Form students to use their mobile phones during lessons for organisational and research purposes.
- Outside of these agreements Sixth Formers should ensure that mobile phones are not visible around the school site and not used in other areas of the school without permission from a member of staff. If these expectations are not met then the same sanctions apply to Sixth Formers as apply to all other students in the school.