



Mobile devices policy

Independent school standards	Paragraphs 7, 9 and 34.
Last updated by senior leaders	January 2026
Last reviewed by advisory board	January 2026
Next review due	September 2026

Mobile phones and other smart technology devices with similar functionality

- St. John's policy on mobile phones pays regard to the [Department for Education's 'mobile phones in schools' guidance](#) and refers to pupils bringing to school any mobile device with the ability to send and/or receive data, notifications or messages via mobile networks and/or the ability to record audio and/or video. This includes, as non-exhaustive examples, smart: phones, watches, tablets and eyewear. It also includes tracking devices, such as Apple AirTags, which may disrupt learning as they automatically sound an alarm when, for example, separated from their 'owner'.

Preparatory School including Early Years

- No mobile devices are permitted on the school premises or on school trips. Any mobile device found will be confiscated, stored securely, and returned to the parent, ordinarily at the end of term.

Senior School excluding Sixth Form

- Mobile devices are permitted on the school premises but must be securely stored in pupils' individual phone lockers on arrival to the school; these must not be accessed until the end of the school day. Latecomers must report to the school office to hand their device/s in. Devices must be switched off.
- Pupils who choose to bring their mobile device/s to school must pay a £10 deposit, for which they will receive a key for their individual phone locker. Loss of keys results in the loss of this deposit, and a further £10 deposit will be payable for a new key. Copying of keys is forbidden. Pupils must not use their standard school lockers to store mobile devices.
- Any mobile device found not to have been secured will be confiscated, stored securely, and returned to the parent after three school weeks.
- Pupils refusing or failing to secure/hand in their mobile device/s, hiding them, or securing/handing in one device but retaining one or more on their person, will be subject to a clear consequence as per the behaviour policy; this will be an internal suspension of at least one day. Any further instances of refusal or failure to follow this policy will result in external suspension of at least one day. Instances of theft of device/s and/or keys, vandalism of the mobile storage boxes, and/or misuse of keys, will always result in external suspension.
- Mobile devices are not ordinarily permitted on school trips, including residential. Where exceptions apply, such as for overseas exchange experiences, pupils (and their parents) must agree in writing that pupils will use their mobile devices safely and sensibly during the course of the exchange. *If pupils subsequently breach this agreement, they may not be permitted to attend future overseas exchange visits and/or residential.*

Sixth Form

- Mobile devices are permitted on the school premises and sixth-form students' persons, but must be never used, seen or heard during the school

day. It is especially important sixth-form students are not seen using mobile devices in front of younger pupils and therefore may only use their mobile devices in the sixth-form common room, with the exception of international students, who may be given permission to use mobile devices for translation purposes during lessons. Sixth-form students remain subject to the behaviour policy and the educational consequences therein.

Reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities

- We acknowledge our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to take such steps as are reasonable to avoid substantial disadvantage to pupils with disabilities. Allowing a disabled pupil access to a mobile device during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability, may be considered a reasonable adjustment. For example, pupils with diabetes may use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile device to monitor blood sugar levels. Where this may be necessary, the relevant senior leader will meet with the pupil and their parents and agree a reasonable plan with the pupil, class/form teacher and parents, which will be formalised in writing.