

14 July 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Mobile Phones Sep 2025

As you may be aware, the DfE has provided new guidance to schools around mobile phones. This includes, ***'Schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.'***

As a school we are fully supportive of the measure and agree that this would benefit students in terms of socialising, being focused and concentrating on academic study.

We are not proposing a complete ban on bringing mobile phones to school and understand that parents and carers like students to have their phones with them for the journey to and from school.

### Phone policy from Wednesday 3 September 2025

- **Never used, never seen, never heard on the school site** - the use of mobile phones and other smart technology is prohibited for all students Y7-Y11 at Stocksbridge High School.
- Any phone, SEEN OR HEARD at any time on the school site will be confiscated (*i.e. looking at it, checking it, using it*). The students will be able to collect their mobile phones from the main school office at the end of the school day. (3.10pm)
- **Students may have phones in their bags, switched off for the duration of the school day. We do not expect to see them or hear them. From Wednesday 3 September 2025, students must not use their mobile devices as soon as they step through the school gates - this includes before form and at the end of the day.**
- Headphones (in any form - other than SEND or medical purposes) should not be seen at any time in school. If students choose to use headphones when travelling to and from school (please be mindful of personal safety), they must remove them before they enter the school site. If seen in school, they will be confiscated as above.

## FAQ's

### ***Can students use phones on school trips?***

This will be dependent on each school trip and up to the trip leader. We are aware that there will be some trips where students will want to take photos. Restrictions need to be adhered to on trips and guidance will be given by the trip leader.

If a trip running during the school day is set to return after the end of the school day, students will be able to use their phones on the return journey to text families about the time of their return.

Phones will still be permitted on after school / weekend / residential trips, with guidance from staff as to what is appropriate – these are the same as the rules that currently apply to after school and residential trips.

### ***What happens if I need to get an urgent message to my child during the school day?***

Parents and carers can telephone the school reception. They will write down the message and pass it on to your child's Pastoral Manager or on-call so they can take whatever action is needed. Please note this is for emergencies – most students will likely still have a phone in their bag that they can check as they leave the school site at the end of the day for any messages.

### ***What happens if my child needs to phone me during the school day?***

Students can go to their Pastoral Manager. Pastoral colleagues will be able to contact parents/carers to share **urgent** messages.

### ***What happens if my child needs to let me know they have detention after school?***

All after school detentions have a 24hr notice and each day the lists are posted on the reception door, SLT office doors, Pastoral doors. Parents will be made aware of the detention via Parent App.

### ***Can students still wear a smartwatch?***

Smartwatches are allowed in school but must not be used to communicate with other students or family members throughout the day.

### ***Can students use phones in lessons?***

Students are not permitted to use their phone in lessons from September 2025. Teaching staff will ensure they have a new system for students to research the internet or use a camera i.e. book out a computer room / use iPad to take photos etc.

We realise that students will have several further questions about why this policy is being implemented nationally. Please use the following link as part of the rationale behind the policy.

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/the-issue/problem>

Please do discuss this letter with your child. We are also communicating the change in school through assemblies and PD time. We will also be sharing the message further on social media and there will be more reminders in the run up to Wednesday 3 September 2025.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Williams  
Headteacher