



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

21 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on our Mobile Phone Policy, which was introduced in December, prior to the publication of the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which was released yesterday.

Why was our phone policy introduced?

Our decision to introduce the policy in December was taken to support learning, wellbeing, focus and safety across the school.

We are pleased to confirm that the policy aligns fully with the DfE's new guidance, which sets out a clear national expectation that pupils do not have access to mobile phones during the school day.

This includes:

- During lessons
- Between lessons
- At breaktimes
- At lunchtime

What does this policy mean in practice?

- Mobile phones are not permitted to be used or accessed during the school day.
- The policy forms part of our wider Behaviour Policy.
- Any mobile phone brought onto site must be switched off and placed in the pouch that the school has provided.

The role of parents and carers (DfE guidance)

Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting this policy. We ask that families continue to:

- Discuss the policy with their child and reinforce expectations at home.
- Talk to pupils about the risks associated with mobile phone use during the school day and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.
- Support the school in applying the policy consistently.

Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should continue to contact the school office, who will ensure messages are passed on appropriately. Pupils should not be contacted directly on mobile phones during school hours.

Searching and confiscation

In line with legislation and DfE guidance:

- The Head Teacher, or authorised staff, has the power to search pupils or their belongings where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a mobile phone is being carried or used in breach of school rules.
- Mobile phones are identified in school policy as an item that may be searched for because they are prohibited.
- As stated in our searching policy, we may use a metal detecting 'wand' to do this. Please note that this is standard practice in many schools. They will be used for other, suspected prohibited items such as vapes.
- Failure to co-operate with a search will result in sanctions.

We have been made aware that SOME pupils may be placing old phones or other devices in their phone pouch. We need to reiterate that this is not allowed and a wand check may be carried out, if we have reason to believe this is not the case.

Pupils who arrive late via the office are not subject to the standard checks carried out in Morning Meeting; therefore, if a pupil states that they do not have their mobile phone with them on arrival, a wand check may be carried out before they enter the building.

Where the policy is breached:

- The school will apply sanctions, including confiscation or detention, in line with behaviour guidance. Repeated defiance may result in suspension.
- Staff are legally protected when confiscating phones.
- Confiscation may be used for a period deemed appropriate, taking into account a pupil's age, individual circumstances and any additional needs.

Our approach

Our approach remains focused on promoting positive behaviour, protecting learning time and supporting pupil wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a calm, safe and focused learning environment for all pupils.

With best wishes,



David Thompson
Head Teacher