MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Introduction

This policy applies to John Lyon School, which comprises the 'Senior School' and the 'Prep School'. All references to 'the School' refer to John Lyon School except where otherwise specified.

The following policy is written in accordance with the following government guidance: Mobile Phones in Schools, Behaviour in Schools, Children's Wellbeing in Schools Act 2026, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality act 2010, Keeping Children safe in Education as well as the *School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*, and *Anti-Bullying Policy*.

The policy should be read alongside the *Online Safety Policy* and the *Pupil Code of Conduct* contained in the *Behaviour Policy*.

Statement of Intent

The School seeks to establish a calm, safe and supportive environment conducive to learning, and keeping children safe in education.

References to 'mobile phones' should also be taken to refer to other communications and smart technology including 'smart wearable' devices such as glasses and watches.

In line with the statutory government guidance all schools should now be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.

This policy prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality (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.

The Aims of the Policy

1. To promote positive behaviour for learning without the distraction of mobile phones.
2. To teach and model responsible use of mobile phones.
3. To promote responsible behaviour surrounding mobile phones and to build self-discipline.
4. To define the role of teachers
5. To state what is expected of pupils.
6. To state what is expected from parents.
7. To provide guidance on available rewards and sanctions.
8. To help to prevent digital, online or social media-based bullying.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

It is the aim of the School to provide a working environment where all pupils can realise their full potential in a non-disruptive, happy and stimulating environment. The School expects a high standard of behaviour and value is placed on the qualities of self-discipline, independence, initiative and mutual respect. Our aim is to have firm but fair discipline in a caring and friendly atmosphere. Pupils are expected to focus on their work in their lessons and use social time

at break and lunch to build positive relationships with their peers and expand their range of interests and skills.

Much research is emerging which exposes the negative impact of mobile phones and social media on young people's mental health and wellbeing. Further research has demonstrated the detrimental effect of mobile phones on the classroom learning environment. Since 2023 the Senior School has sought to mitigate these disadvantages through the introduction of lockable pouches which operate as an effective ban and prevent pupils from being able to access their mobile phones throughout the school day, whilst still recognising the need for some pupils to bring a mobile phone to school due to their personal circumstances, for example, commuting on public transport or for health monitoring reasons.

Prep pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school. Any exception to this must be approved by the Deputy Head (Prep) and the device be handed into the School reception each morning. Smart wearable devices are not permitted under any circumstances.

All pupils in Years 7-10 who bring a mobile phone to school are expected to lock their phone away in their pouch upon arrival to school site. Form tutors check the pouches each morning and Heads of Year conduct random spot checks on their pupils to ensure compliance. Pouches may only be unlocked after PM registration at 4pm for pupils leaving the school site. Staff leading after school activities or fixtures will ensure that pupils in their care keep their pouches locked and only open these upon departure from school or if contact with a parent becomes essential and cannot be communicated centrally through the school communication system.

Pupils in Year 7-10 who fail to comply with this policy will have their device confiscated and be set an after-school detention. Sanctions will escalate in accordance with the behaviour policy.

For the academic year 2026-27 only Pupils in Year 11 are expected to adhere to a 'not seen or heard policy' upon arrival on School site and are encouraged to store their phones in their lockers for the duration of the school day. Pupils in Year 11 who fail to comply with this policy will have their phone confiscated, be given a lunchtime detention and will be issued with a pouch for the duration of the academic year. Parents will be billed for this pouch at a cost of £18. Once issued a pouch Year 11 pupils will follow the same regulations as pupils in Year 7-10. Parents of Year 11 pupils may opt for their child to have a pouch and purchase this through parent pay, letting their child's form tutor know of their intention.

Students in the Sixth Form will be permitted access to their mobile phones at certain and limited times and locations, reflecting this period of education as one of increased independence and responsibility, without compromising the School's regulations on the use of mobile phones for other pupils. The use of mobile phones by sixth-form students in front of younger pupils is prohibited. The use of mobile phones is restricted to Sixth-Form areas (The Burges Suite, The Sixth Form Café and The Cloisters Common Room). Teachers may invite Sixth Form students to use their mobile phone in lessons for educational purposes. This must be strictly curated by staff and under no circumstances are Sixth Form students permitted to listen to music during independent learning tasks as standard. Sixth Form students must not use their mobile phones to 'hot spot' for other devices. Sixth Form students remain subject to the school's behaviour policy and misuse of their phone has the potential to lead to sanctions.

The Role of Teachers:

All staff should consistently enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.

Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. This will empower staff to better challenge pupils to meet the School's expectations and effectively enforce the prohibition of mobile phones throughout the school day. There may be occasions where it is appropriate for a teacher to use a mobile phone or similar device, for instance to use multi-factor authentication, or to make a call in an emergency, for all other purposes the SMD should be sufficient.

It is the School's expectation that staff will not use their mobile phones in lessons, corridors or in areas visible to pupils, such as the Dining Hall, unless there is an emergency. Staff are welcome to use their mobile phones in the staff common room or departmental offices as appropriate. School issued mobile phones will be clearly identifiable as such and again only used when necessary in the course of exercising a school duty or aspect of a role.

Expectations for Pupils:

All pupils should be clear on the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and will be reminded of the policy, and the consequences for not following it, at the start of each school year and at regular intervals.

Through the Personal Development (PSCHE) programme, pupils are taught online safety and the risks that are associated with the use of mobile phones, both in school and more broadly, to ensure they understand the decision to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. These risks can include a loss of focus in lessons, classroom disruption and an increase in bullying.

Pupils are taught the benefits of having a mobile phone-free environment and encouraged to see such an environment as desirable and valuable.

Pupils are therefore expected to comply fully with the policy and not use their mobile phone anywhere on school premises. Pupils will agree to this as part of their acceptance of the school code of conduct (signed at the beginning of each school year).

The Role of Parents:

Parents have an important role in supporting the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones. Parents are encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment. Where parents need to contact their child during the school day, they should contact the school office who can relay messages and facilitate contact.

The School would ask parents to support the policy by ensuring that their children have their lunch card topped up or have access to a physical bank card to purchase snacks as pupils will not be permitted to use their phones to pay for items in the dining hall. The School would also ask parents to support the policy by supplying their child with a (non-smart) wristwatch to facilitate them to tell the time easily, without the need to consult their phone or SMD.

Parents of children in Year 7-9 are encouraged to consider whether their child really needs a mobile phone at all and consider whether a 'brick' phone would be a better option if a device becomes necessary. The School would actively encourage all parents to sign up to the 'Parent Pact' created by the charity Smartphone Free Childhood which aims to delay exposure to smartphones and social media for children.

Where parents have questions or concerns about this policy they should contact the Deputy Head Pastoral or Deputy Head (Wellbeing, DSL & Sixth Form) in the first instance.

The Use of Sanctions:

In accordance with the government guidance, the School can use a range of sanctions for breaching the mobile phone policy, including confiscation and detentions.

The School has the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a sanction where the policy is clearly breached, for instance where a mobile phone is being visibly used by a pupil or is heard making a sound in a pupil's bag/pocket. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case.

The Head has been empowered by the Department for Education to confiscate mobile phones and similar devices, if they consider it proportionate, for whatever length of time they deem proportionate. Confiscation as a sanction can be an effective deterrent for a specific pupil or a general deterrent for all pupils at the school.

Sanctions for misuse of mobile phones are set out the Behaviour Policy and summarised as follows:

Infringement	**Sanction**
Prep pupil in possession of a phone or other smart wearable.	Confiscation (parents to collect) Meeting with Deputy Head (Prep) or Phase Lead.
Pupil in Year 7-10 who has not locked their phone away in their pouch.	Confiscation (to be returned after 4pm) Pastoral or Academic after school detention set.
Pupil in Year 11 whose phone is *seen or heard* on School site. This includes 'checking the time' or phones making sounds in bags/pockets.	Confiscation (to be returned after 4pm) Lunchtime detention set. Pouch issued by HoY & parents billed.
Sixth Form student who uses their phone outside a designated area.	Confiscation (to be returned after 4pm) Pastoral or Academic after school detention set.
Repeat infringements – Year 7-11	Confiscation (parents to collect) Pastoral/Academic detention set.
Repeat infringements – Sixth Form	Confiscation (to be returned by Ho6th) Pouch issued by Ho6th & parents billed.
Any subsequent infringements will result in an escalated sanction as per the behaviour policy. Parents will be required to attend a meeting with the Phase Lead, Head of Pastoral Care, Deputy Head of Sixth Form or a Deputy Head.	

Searching pupils

Mobile phones have been added to the list of items listed in the Behaviour Policy which may be searched for. A Deputy Head (as authorised by the Head) has a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item as set out in legislation or any item identified in the school rules as an item that may be searched for. The School upholds the searching, screening and confiscation in schools guidance regarding searching a pupil.

Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments:

Schools have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to take such steps as is reasonable to avoid substantial disadvantage to a disabled pupil caused by the school's policies or practices. Allowing a disabled pupil access to their mobile phone during the school day, where it is necessary due to the nature of their disability, may be considered a reasonable adjustment and a failure to do so may be a breach of the school's duty.

The School also upholds the Children and Families Act 2014 to have arrangements in place to support pupils with medical conditions. In some circumstances, supporting a pupil with their medical condition can involve the use of a mobile phone. For example, pupils with diabetes might use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar levels. Where mobile phone use allows pupils to manage their medical condition effectively, the School will not prevent this.

Beyond these specific duties, the School recognises that a need for mobile phone access for some pupils may depend on their individual circumstances, including at home. The School will allow flexibility in the policy for these pupils for example, those who are young carers.

Allowing flexibility for individual pupils does not mean that these pupils will be exempt from all restrictions on the use of their mobile phone. The School will enable pupils to use their mobile phone for a specific purpose at specific times and locations, for example, in a Deputy Head's office.

The use of mobile phones outside of the school day:

The School will ensure that pupils' educational experience on a school trip is not disrupted by the presence of mobile phones and will prohibit or restrict their use on a case-by-case basis, this will be communicated to parents and guardians by the Educational Visit Leader.

On residential trips Pupils in Year 7-11 will not have access to their phones overnight, either by virtue of using lockable pouches or by collection by a member of staff.

When pupils have remote supervision or there is the potential for separation from the group (e.g. travelling by tube in London at rush hour) pupils will have access to their phones and will be provided with an emergency contact number for the EVL. At all other times mobile phones must not be seen or heard.

Reviewed by: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Implemented: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027