



PRIESTNALL
SCHOOL

Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

Date of Review: May 2026

Date of Next Review: July 2027

REVISION NUMBER	REVISION DATE	REVISION(S) MADE	REVISION APPROVAL DATE
1	July 2023	New Policy	July 2023
2	May 2024	No changes	July 2024
3	May 2025	Page 2 use of mobile phone form and exam arrangements	June 2025
4	May 2026	Wording in line with DfE guidance	June 2026

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Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- *DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education'*
- *DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation'*
- *The Data Protection Act 2018*

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- *Anti-bullying Policy*
- *Online Safety Policy*
- *Data Protection Policy*
- *Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy? – can't find this policy*
- *Safeguarding Policy (including Child Protection)*
- *Behaviour policy*

Rationale

As per the government guidance on Mobile Phones in School, Priestnall School's policy regarding mobile technology is that it prohibits the use of mobile throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime, this is done so with the aim to remove digital distraction during the school day. Students should have their mobile phones in their bags and switched off. It should not be used at all on the school site for the following reasons:

- *Using these items during the school day could potentially disrupt teaching and learning.*
- *Some of these devices can be used to bully, harass or emotionally harm others.*
- *As mobile phones and other personal electronic devices are equipped to record sound, take photographs and video images, this technology is open to significant abuse. Taking of such images and recordings contravenes the Data Protection Act 2018.*
- *Mobile Technology is not permitted in examination rooms.*

- *These items are usually of high value and are therefore at risk of being stolen in school or on the way to or from school.*

With express prior permission from the staff member, students may be allowed to check a timetable for the day and to check seating arrangements for any mock and external examinations.

For safety reasons, mobile phones are permitted on the journey to and from school and may be used to contact home following after school extra-curricular activities.

However, mobile phones and any SMART devices are not to be seen or heard at any point during the school day. It is our expectation that phones are switched off, no later than 8.25am when the first bell rings for morning registration and placed in school bags until students leave the school building at the end of the school day.

Applicable Devices

All points in this policy apply to any device which is internet-enabled including but not exhaustive:

- *Mobile phones including Android phones, iPhones, Smartphones.*
- *Personal Digital Assistants*
- *Handheld entertainment systems and associated equipment including games consoles, CD players, DVD players, MP3 players, iPods and earphones.*
- *Portable internet devices such as iPads.*

Internet-enabled watches including Smart watches, GPS watches, FitBits, Fitness Trackers may be worn in school, but only for the purpose of telling the time and must have all other functions disabled. The exception to this is if the watch is used for health monitoring and this has been agreed through a First Aid risk assessment.

Non-Compliance with this Policy

If a member of staff sees a mobile phone or a student using an electronic device, the equipment will be taken from the student and given to the Head of Year and a C3 – 30 minute detention will be issued. Should a student argue or refuse to hand their phone/electronic device to a member of staff, sanctions will be escalated as per the behaviour policy. The item should be collected by students from their Head of Year at the end of the school day. If a student has had an item confiscated twice previously, the item will remain in school and the expectation is that it will be collected by a parent or carer.

If a student needs to speak with a parent/carers or to access their mobile phone during the day, they should speak to their Head of Year who will plan for this to be possible in exceptional circumstances.

Parent/carers are reminded that we are not responsible for the loss of or damage to any confiscated items.

Equality Impact Statement

Names and title of people involved with this assessment	Emma Cookson Trust Director of Inclusion
Impact assessment carried out with regard to identified characteristics	☒ Race ☒ Disability ☒ Sex ☒ Age ☒ Religious Belief ☒ Sexual Orientation ☒ Gender Reassignment
Summary of any issue/proposed changes	Page 2 use of mobile phone form and exam arrangements
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Priestnall School
Priestnall Road
Heaton Mersey
Stockport
SK4 3HP

t: 0161 549 7300
e: enquiries@priestnallschool.org.uk
w: www.priestnallschool.org.uk