

# PANGBOURNE

— A community where you can flourish —

## MOBILE PHONE POLICY

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## 1. Rationale and Aims

Pangbourne College is committed to providing a **mobile phone-free environment** throughout the school day to allow pupils to learn and flourish without the digital pressures of screen time and social media. This policy aims to:

- Afford the community **respite from phones** to encourage social interaction and focused learning.
- Help students develop strategies to **manage screen time** alongside academic and personal development.
- Explain the **academic and social benefits** of a phone-free environment while mitigating risks such as cyberbullying and distraction.

## 2. Scope and Definitions

- **Mobile devices** include all smartphones and any smart devices with similar functionality, such as messaging, notifications, and audio/video recording.
- **BYOD Alignment:** The College's "Bring Your Own Device" policy applies **only to laptops and tablets** equipped with keyboards for learning. **Mobile phones are explicitly excluded** from the BYOD policy and are governed by this document.

## 3. General Prohibition

The College is **mobile phone-free by default** during the working day. This includes lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtimes.

Restricted Hours: The prohibition is in effect from arrival at College until the end of the working day (17:15).

Dining Etiquette: Mobile phones are strictly prohibited in the Mess Hall at all times, including during boarders' supper

Group	Policy Requirement
Years 7-11	<b>No access</b> to phones during the working day. Phones must be <b>handed in</b> to their respective Pastoral Divisional Lead (PDL) to be stored securely in the Division office upon arrival and collected at the end of the day.
Sixth Form	Access is restricted during the teaching day. Phones must be <b>handed in</b> to PDLs or the Head of Sixth Form. While they may retain devices overnight, phones <b>must not be visible to younger pupils</b> and use is limited to specific, designated locations to avoid undermining the whole-school policy.
Boarders	Phones are stored securely during the day. Evening access is permitted but must conclude <b>15 minutes prior to bedtime</b> , at which point devices are handed to duty staff.

## 4. Exemptions and Reasonable Adjustments

In accordance with the Equality Act, the College will make **reasonable adjustments** for specific pupils. These exemptions are **purpose-specific, time-limited, and supervised**, rather than blanket permissions:

- **Medical Needs:** Pupils requiring phones for health monitoring, such as **diabetes management**.
- **SEND/Individual Circumstances:** Adjustments for disability-related needs or for pupils who are **young carers**.
- **Safeguarding:** Permission may be granted for specific safeguarding reasons on a case-by-case basis
- **Overseas Pupils:** Exemptions to contact home may be granted at the **discretion of the Head of House (HoH)**.

## 5. Staff Expectations

- Staff are expected to **model the behaviour** expected of pupils.
- **Personal phones should only be used in front of pupils** during the school day for professional tasks.
- College-issued mobiles may be used by staff for professional tasks, such as registration or accessing College databases for pupil safety.

## 6. Enforcement and Sanctions

- **Confiscation:** If a pupil uses a device contrary to this policy, it will be confiscated and held securely in the school safe. The pupils' family will be contacted and the phone can be collected by a parent or responsible family member.
- **Search Powers:** Mobile phones are considered **items subject to search** under the College's behaviour policies.
- **Image/Video Misuse:** Taking images or recordings of others without permission is strictly prohibited and handled via school disciplinary procedures.
- **Sanction Grading:** Initial misuse results in confiscation and a detention; repeat offences will be escalated to Deputy Heads and may result in Saturday detentions or worse for repeated offences.

## 7. Communication and Off-Site Activities

- **Parental Contact:** Parents should contact the **School Office or PDLs** to pass on messages during the day, rather than contacting pupils directly via mobile.
- **Trips and Fixtures:** For away sports fixtures, phones may be used **during transportation only**. For residential and trips, specific rules will be determined and communicated.
- **Travel to School:** Parents are encouraged to consult with the school regarding phone use during the commute to and from the College to ensure pupil safety.