



THE BEWDLEY SCHOOL

We fly with our own wings

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Mobile Phone and Personal Electronics Policy

Adoption Date: June 2026
Person Responsible: Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher
Review Date: September 2027

The Bewdley School Mobile Phone and Personal Electronics Policy

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- The Bewdley School Behaviour Policy
- The Bewdley School Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- The Bewdley School Acceptable Use/E-safety policy

Introduction

At The Bewdley School we are committed to keeping up to date with technology to support learning but only when used in a way that enhances learning and keeps all members of our community safe. Homework will be completed online in some situations where it promotes enhanced achievement. We will provide opportunities for students and staff to engage with and develop new technologies where relevant. We encourage and support the respectful use of any technology to enhance learning as long as it follows school protocols and keeps everyone safe. While the use of mobile phones may be reasonable for homework, they do not have a place in the daily routines of a secondary school and will not be used in the classroom except in very specific circumstances or by students while on school site.

1. Purpose

In line with current Government guidance, all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear, consistent expectations regarding the use, possession, searching and confiscation of mobile phones and smart devices at The Bewdley School, ensuring a safe, calm and focused learning environment.

At The Bewdley School, expectations around mobile phones are not punitive. They exist to support students in being Ready, Respectful and Safe, and to remove unnecessary pressures associated with constant digital access during the school day reflecting our commitment to student wellbeing, learning, safeguarding and proportionate behaviour management.

Mobile phones are now a feature of modern society and most of our students own one. Increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high monetary value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leading to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the phone covertly e.g. texting whilst on silent mode.

In his book, *The Anxious Generation*, Jonathan Haight identifies the four foundational harms linked to overuse of devices: social deprivation, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation and addiction. Studies show that:

- We interact with our phones on average 85 times a day
- 91% of us could not leave home without our phone
- 46% could not live without our phone
- Experts recommend no more than 2 hours per day to limit anxiety and depression

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students in Years 7–11 during the school day and while under the lawful control of the school, including:

- Arrival and departure
- Break and lunch
- Transitions
- Detentions
- Educational visits (unless otherwise stated)

Separate guidance applies for Sixth Form students, who may use mobile devices only in designated Sixth Form areas and in line with Sixth Form expectations. Sixth Form students will be searched/screened for any internal/external examinations.

3. School Position: A Smartphone-Free School Day

3.1 General Expectation

The Bewdley School is a smartphone-free school during the school day.

- Mobile phones, a watch that can send/receive messages and/or phone calls, wireless earbuds/headphones and similar personal devices must not be used, seen or heard during the school day.
- Students may bring phones to school for travel purposes only.
- Devices must be switched off and secured in their YONDR pouch (issued by the school) immediately on entry to the school site and remain so until leaving.

This expectation reflects evidence that reduced access to smartphones during the school day improves focus, behaviour, social interaction and wellbeing.

4. Single Point of Entry: Entry/Exit routines including searching & screening

To ensure clarity and consistency:

- All students enter school through the designated single point of entry. All other entry points will be closed at the start of the school day.
- Students will be met by school staff in reception
- On arrival:
 - Phones and smart devices must be switched off.
 - Devices must be secured in their YONDR pouch - staff will check this every morning.
- Students who forget their mobile phone will be screened/searched via handheld security 'wands' by school staff of the same sex (The school's approach to searching, screening and confiscation is fully aligned with The Bewdley School Behaviour Policy and DfE guidance: *Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022)*).
- Students who forget their YONDR pouch will be required to hand in their mobile phone and electronic devices at the main reception. These will be available for collection at the end of the school day.

- There will be a number of unlocking stations positioned around the school site. Students need to use the unlocking stations at the end of the school day to unlock their pouches.

This approach ensures expectations are clear from the start of the day and supports consistent enforcement.

5. Exemptions & Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments may be agreed where a student has a documented medical need.

All adjustments:

- Must be agreed in advance
- Will be clearly recorded and communicated to relevant staff
- Do not remove the school's safeguarding responsibilities or right to set boundaries

6. Sanctions in relation to this policy

Incident:	Outcome:
Claim no phone, one found on student later on	Internal suspension, phone confiscated and parents/carers to collect
Refusing to use the YONDR pouch	Day 1: Day placement in Internal Suspension, phone confiscated and returned to parent/carer; Day 2: As above but also 4pm finish. Day 3: As above but also 5pm finish. Possible escalation to suspension
Bringing in a 'burner' phone	Confiscated, returned to parent/carer. Internal and/or External suspension
Collecting friend's phones	Confiscated, returned to parents or guardians, Internal and/or External suspension
Deliberate damage to the case	£20 charge for new pouch, handing in phone daily until payment received
Deliberate damage to a lock box	Charge for replacement, Internal and/or External suspension
Using unauthorised unlocking hardware	Hardware will be disposed of. Internal and/or External suspension
Bring a watch/headphone or any other electronic device into school and not handed in/locked in their pouch (unless agreed by the school's SEND department)	Confiscated, returned to parent
Any other dishonest act with mobile phone or device or breach of this policy including persistent breaches	Escalates from internal suspension/external suspension to possible permanent exclusion. Phone/devices always removed and given back to parents only.

7. Loss, Damage and Liability

- Students are responsible for their own devices
- The school accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft
- Devices brought to school should be insured by parents/carers

8. Complaints

There is not an appeals process for confiscation. Parents may raise concerns via the school's **Complaints Policy**