



Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

Academic Year 2026-2027

This policy was approved and ratified by
Wadebridge School in July 2026

This policy and its contents are made available to all Wadebridge School Staff and observed by all Trustees

Author	Version	Authorisation	Approval Date	Effective Date	Next Review	Published to Website
C Wilson	V1	Wadebridge School Senior Leadership Team	02/07/2026	02/07/2026	02/07/2027	Yes



1. Purpose

Wadebridge School is committed to providing a calm, safe and focused learning environment where all students can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

With the statutory requirements for schools in England coming into force in Summer 2026, the school has had to revise the current mobile phone policy.

This policy aims to:

- Meet the legal requirements being introduced from 1 July 2026
- Reduce distraction and disruption to learning
- Promote positive behaviour and wellbeing
- Safeguard students from online harms, cyberbullying and inappropriate content
- Encourage healthy social interaction
- Support students in developing responsible digital habits

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students
- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Smart watches with communication or recording capability
- Earbuds/headphones connected to phones
- Tablets and similar personal smart devices unless specifically authorised

3. General Expectations

Students may bring a mobile phone to school for safety when travelling to and from school. However:

- For all students (year 7-11) phones must be switched off before entering the school site and placed out of sight in school bags and not kept on one's person for example in pockets.
- For all students' phones must remain out of sight and unused throughout the entire school day. Students must not use phones, smart watches or similar devices anywhere on the school site during the school day unless explicit permission is given by a member of staff.
- After the end of the school day student's phones must remain in bags and out of sight until they leave the school buildings.



4. Storage of Phones

Students are responsible for securely storing their phones in their bags or lockers during the school day.

Wadebridge School accepts no liability for loss, theft or damage to personal devices brought onto site.

5. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that some students may require access to a mobile device for:

- Medical reasons
- Disabilities or additional needs
- Safeguarding arrangements
- Exceptional personal circumstances

Any exemption must:

- Be agreed in advance with the school
- Be supported by appropriate evidence where necessary
- Form part of an individual support plan

Reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

6. Sanctions

Failure to follow this policy will result in sanctions.

First Incident

- Device confiscated until the end of the school day

Second Incident

- Device confiscated and parent/carer contacted to be informed that this is a second incident and if there is a third incident the parent / carer will need to collect the confiscated item in person

Third Incident

- Phone confiscated and parent / carer to collect the confiscated item in person to support a reset of expectations. For the following week student to hand in phone every day.

Serious Misuse

Examples include:

- Filming staff or students
- Bullying or harassment



- Sharing inappropriate material
- Cheating in assessments
- Refusal to hand over a device

These may result in:

- Internal suspension
- External suspension
- Referral to safeguarding or external agencies where appropriate

7. Searching and Confiscation

In accordance with Department for Education guidance and the Education Act 1996, authorised staff may search students or possessions where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of school rules regarding prohibited items, including mobile phones.

Confiscated devices may be examined where there is reason to believe they contain evidence relating to:

- Bullying
- Safeguarding concerns
- Criminal behaviour
- Serious breaches of school policy

8. Parents and Carers

Parents/carers are asked to support the school by:

- Reinforcing the expectations of this policy
- Avoiding contacting students directly during the school day. If a parent or carer needs to contact a student, they can do so by calling the school and the school will arrange for a message to be given to the student as appropriate.

9. Educational Visits and Residential Trips

Separate guidance may apply for:

- Residential visits
- Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
- Overseas trips
- Sporting fixtures

Staff will communicate expectations in advance of each visit.

10. Staff Responsibilities



Staff will:

- Enforce this policy consistently
- Model appropriate device use
- Avoid personal mobile phone use in front of students except where professionally necessary

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Trust Board to ensure compliance with:

- Department for Education guidance
- Safeguarding expectations
- Emerging legislation