



Woodrush High School

An Academy for Students Aged 11-18

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Mobile phone policy – September 2026

From September 2026 Woodrush High School is proud to be a mobile phone-free school, building on our already not seen, not heard approach to students with phones in school.

As a mobile phone-free school, we expect every student to avoid bringing a mobile phone to school. And we also advise all parents to avoid or, at least, delay purchasing smart phones for your child[ren] due to the numerous negative experiences, influences, social pressures and content that are associated with these devices. Following our consultations with parents earlier this year, we understand that some of you struggle to apply controls and/or supervise smart device usage but that some of you also want your child[ren] to have a means of contact before and after school.

We ask you to read carefully the changes to our mobile phone policy from September 2026.

Mobile phone policy

Woodrush High School is proud to be a mobile phone-free school. Students are not permitted to carry or access mobile phones during the school day.

If a mobile phone is seen, heard or suspected, a member of staff will request and enforce that the student hands over the device for confiscation and our behaviour policy will be followed accordingly.

Rationale

Students are made fully aware of the reasons for Woodrush High School being a mobile phone-free school, including:

- Supporting students to focus fully on learning
- The taking and sharing of photographs or videos of children and others in school
- The misuse of mobile phones leading to bullying incidents
- Encouraging students to socialise during social times without technology
- Ensuring students are free from social media during the school day

The misuse of mobile phones, camera/video devices, and social media is a primary contributor to bullying, harassment, and serious safeguarding concerns. We ask parents and carers to support us in keeping their child[ren] and others safe while in school.

Headteacher: Mr J Barber, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
NPQSL

Deputy Head(s): Mr D Monk, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH; Mrs M Holtom-Brown, BA (Hons), GTTP, NPQH; Mr I Wright, BA (Hons), PGCE, MCCT,





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Woodrush works closely with the local policing, safeguarding and welfare teams, all of whom advise that mobile phones make young people a target for crime and anti-social behaviour when commuting to and from school and online.

Contact During the School Day

If students need to contact their parents or carers during the school day, they should report to the Year Inclusion Team Office, where staff will support their request. Parents and carers can also pass messages to students by phoning the school office.

Use, possession, spot checks & searches

In the interest of keeping children safe from the risks that mobile phones present, use and/or possession of a mobile phone device is prohibited during the school day. As a community, to ensure we can promote a phone-free school for all students, the school can use daily spot-checks on student or groups of students.

Use or possession of a mobile phone device will result in a sanction for the student, according to our Behaviour Policy, and a confiscation of the device. This extends to smart devices (i.e. watches, glasses or pads) if it is deemed that a similar risk to children, as mobile phones, is established.

If a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone, a member of staff (authorised by the Senior Leadership Team) may conduct a non-invasive search. This will involve asking the student to empty the contents of their blazer, bag, PE kit, and pockets. A handheld scanning device may also be used to detect concealed metal items.

Mobile Phone Storage

We actively encourage students to leave their mobile phones at home. However, if a student needs to bring a mobile phone for their journey to and from school, it must be handed in for secure storage during the school day.

Before entering school premises, students must switch off their mobile phones. During form time, all students are required to place their phone in their allocated space in the form collection box. Phones will then be stored in a locked container, out of students' sight, for the duration of the school day.

Students may collect their mobile phones from their form rooms at the end of the school day between 3:00 pm and 3:10 pm.

Planned Leave of Absence – Appointments or Sports Fixtures

If a student has a planned leave of absence during the school day, their mobile phone must be handed in to Student Services before 8:25 am. Students may collect their mobile phone from student services when leaving school site.

Further correspondence will be sent regarding school trips.

Unplanned Leave of Absence – Medical or Unforeseen Circumstances

If a student needs to leave school unexpectedly due to medical or other unforeseen circumstances, a member of the Inclusion Team will collect the student's mobile phone from their form room before they leave the school site.



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Collection of Mobile Phones after 3.10pm

If a student forgets to collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day, the form tutor will take it to the school reception, where it may be collected by the student or their parent/carer.

If the mobile phone has not been collected by 4:30 pm, it will be placed in secure overnight storage and can be collected from reception on the next school day.

Mobile phones are stored at the owner's risk. While the school will take every reasonable care to ensure devices are kept secure, it cannot accept responsibility for any loss, theft, or damage to phones that have been deposited or confiscated.

Exceptional circumstances.

If you believe your child has special circumstances to this policy, please contact your child's Head of Year. Permission must be re-applied for each academic year.

Empowering our students

The school will work with students to build understanding around the benefits of not bringing mobile phones to school, with a focus on improving learning, wellbeing, and positive relationships. Through discussions, lessons and opportunities for student voice, learners will be encouraged to reflect on how reduced phone use can support focus in lessons, lower social pressure and anxiety, and strengthen face-to-face connections. By involving students in shaping and reviewing the approach, this initiative will promote responsibility, fairness, and healthy technology habits, helping students develop lifelong skills while supporting a calm, engaging, and inclusive learning environment.

Partnership between school and home

To support this policy, the school will also offer parent workshops throughout the academic year that will share current research, explain the school's approach, and provide practical strategies for supporting healthy technology use at home. These workshops will create opportunities for parents and carers to ask questions, share perspectives, and work in partnership with the school to ensure consistent messages about mobile phone use, wellbeing, and learning both at school and at home.

Ultimately, all these measures are to mitigate for the issues caused by children bringing phones into communal places of learning with vulnerabilities that schools can experience. Finally, please take this summer to support us through avoiding having your child[ren] bringing in a mobile phone device in the first place. This is the best way to promote a happy, safer, school community for all – including your own child[ren].

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Yours sincerely

Mr Barber
Headteacher