

Mobile Phone Procedure at Northampton School for Girls

Department of Education Statutory Guidance, June 2026:

“All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.”

1.	Introduction, Rationale and National Context
1.1	Northampton School for Girls is committed to providing a mobile-phone-free environment throughout the school day, in line with the Department for Education’s statutory guidance. The DfE requires schools in England to ensure pupils do not have access to their mobile phones during the school day.
1.2	Our decision to ban mobile phones is grounded in this statutory expectation and supported by research showing that restricting smartphones improves academic performance and supports student wellbeing. Creating a more purposeful, focused environment reduces distraction, disruption and the pressures associated with constant online connectivity, reinforcing our commitment to the best possible conditions for learning and personal development.
1.3	The same expectation applies to smartwatches and any other personal internet-connected device that can send or receive messages, notifications, access online content or record photographs, audio or video.
2.	Arrival on Site (8-8.30am)
2.1	From Monday 7th September, all students arriving between 8.00-8.30am will enter site through the pedestrian gate on Spinney Hill Road. Students will then enter the school building through the theatre foyer where they will be seated and supervised by staff in the theatre.
2.2	Students are expected to complete independent study or read a book during this time, and mobile phones must not be used.
2.3	At 8.30am, all school gates will open, and students will be released from the theatre so they can prepare for form time.
3.	Expectations During the School Day
3.1	Students must not use mobile phones at any time during the school day. Phones must remain switched off and out of sight from entry at the school gates until students leave the premises.
3.2	This applies to: • <i>arrival and departure</i> • <i>movement between lessons</i> • <i>break and lunchtime</i> • <i>all indoor and outdoor areas of the school site</i>
4.	Sanctions
4.1	If a student is seen, heard or found using their mobile phone: • <i>the device will be confiscated,</i> • <i>not returned directly to the student,</i> • <i>and returned only to a parent or carer at a prearranged meeting with a senior member of staff</i>

4.2	The device will be stored securely until the meeting can be completed as this may not be on the same day.
5.	Exceptional Arrangements for Device Use in Lessons
5.1	Students may only use their own device in lessons if they have a formally agreed exceptional arrangement due to: • <i>a diagnosed medical condition</i> • <i>a disability</i> • <i>another significant individual need</i>
5.2	Requests must be made in advance to the Head of Academic Standards who will work with the following members of staff to consider the request: • <i>Mrs Bright – Health and Safety Manager</i> • <i>Mrs Smallman – Lead for SEND and Inclusion</i> • <i>Mrs Boddy – Deputy Headteacher</i>
5.3	Any agreed adjustment will be confirmed in writing by the Headteacher and the student provided with a card that they can present to authorise their use of a device in lesson.
6.	Contacting Home
6.1	If a student needs to contact home during the school day, they must speak to a member of staff and will be supported to use the school's communication systems.
6.2	If home needs to contact a student urgently, they should call the school directly on 01604 679540.
7.	Review
7.1	This procedure will be monitored as part of the school's annual internal review.