

Mobile Phone and Learning Device Processes in the Sixth Form

1.	Introduction and Rationale
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, and as the Sixth Form is part of the school; it follows this guidance in full.
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.
2.	Arrival on Site (8-8.30am)
2.1	From Monday 7th September, Sixth Form students arriving between 8.00 and 8.30am must enter via reception and go directly to the Communal Study area on the ground floor of the Sixth Form Centre, which is supervised. Students do not need to tap-in or sign-in at reception when entering into school during this time.
2.2	Students are expected to complete independent study at this time, and mobile phones must not be used.
3.	Expectations During the School Day
3.1	Sixth Form 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>independent study</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 Sixth Form student is seen, heard or found using their mobile phone: • <i>the device will be confiscated,</i> • <i>stored securely,</i> • <i>and returned only to a parent or carer</i>
4.2	This sanction mirrors the main school and is fully supported by the DfE.
5.	Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
5.1	To support learning, Sixth Form students may bring: • <i>laptops</i> • <i>Chromebooks</i>

5.2	These devices may be used: • <i>before school</i> • <i>in lessons, at the teacher's discretion or by exceptional arrangement</i> • <i>during independent study periods</i> • <i>at break and lunchtime</i>
5.3	They must not be used: • <i>during transitions between lessons</i> • <i>in corridors or communal areas outside permitted times</i>
5.4	Students must accept the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) contract to connect to the Student Wi-Fi. For discretionary users of laptops and Chromebooks during lessons, this privilege may be withdrawn if misused.
6.	Exceptional Arrangements for Device Use in Lessons
6.1	Students may 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>
6.2	Requests must be made in advance to Mrs Bignell (Year 12 lead) or Mrs Martin (Year 13 lead), who will consult with some/all of the following members of staff: • <i>Mrs Bright - Health and Safety Manager</i> • <i>Mrs Smallman - Lead for SEND and Inclusion</i> • <i>Mr Giles - Sixth Form Lead</i> • <i>Mrs Taboada-Naya - Headteacher</i>
6.3	Any agreed adjustment will be confirmed in writing by a senior member of staff and the student provided with a card that they can present to authorise their use of a device in lesson.
7.	Access to School Devices
7.1	There is no requirement for students to bring their own device.
7.2	Subjects requiring computer use will provide equipment.
7.3	Students may borrow a Chromebook from the library: • <i>one device per day</i> • <i>returned at the end of the day</i> • <i>not taken home</i>
8.	Contacting Home
8.1	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.
8.2	If home needs to contact a student urgently, they should call the school directly on 01604 679540.