



The Wilnecote School

Title of Policy:

Mobile Phone Policy

Member of leadership team with lead responsibility for oversight and update of policy	Mr D Foscett
Approved at SLT	July 2026
Policy approval at Governing Body	July 2026
Policy review cycle	Biennial
Policy review date	July 2028

The Wilnecote School Mobile Phone policy

There should be no student access to mobile phones or smart watches or other wearable technology that enables communication throughout the school day. The Wilnecote School is a No mobile phone site for students.

The Children's Well Being and School Bill 2026 makes it a statutory requirement that schools consider and act upon the latest guidance from the Department for Education

The January/February 2026 DfE guidance (now the operative baseline) states:

- **All schools should be mobile-phone-free environments by default**
- Any alternative approach should be **"by exception only"** and justified
- The expectation is that pupils **do not have access to phones at any point during the school day** (lessons, movement time, breaks and lunch)

"Mobile phones" also includes **smartwatches and similar devices capable of messaging, recording or connectivity**

Context to this policy

Since the school introduced its own Mobile phone ban in Sept 2023, our students have been hugely compliant and infringements to our policy has always been rare. Sanctions and confiscations act as deterrents and are explained later in this policy.

In April 2026, this approach was further strengthened by stating students were not to have access to mobile phones by having them on their person. Students were told that it was school policy that mobile phones should either be turned off and in their bags from the start of the day until they had left the building at the end of the school day, or to leave them at home, or to hand them in to student services. Infringements remained extremely rare.

This policy responds to the statutory requirements of the Children's well being and schools Bill 2026 and further strengthens our schools' approach.

The Wilnecote School will continue to ensure there is no access to mobile phones during the school day, other than those students with a legitimate medical condition that requires a mobile phone to monitor. Those requiring exemption must have a medical student support plan which includes this exemption.

Expectations

There is no access to mobile phones throughout the school day. The expectation starts on entry to the school at the start of the day and ends once students have left the building at the end of the school day.

- Students are not to have access to phones in corridors, in lessons, nor at social times.
- The school will remain vigilant at lesson change over, break and lunch around toilet areas
- Those students **requiring access to their mobile phones for legitimate medical reasons** will be agreed by the school and communicated to all staff as part of their ongoing support. Parents/carers should contact the students Pastoral Year officer who will liaise with our SEN team to initiate a reasonable adjustment and the parameters of mobile phone use.
- Mobile phones previously have been used within GCSE Photography lessons due to the lack of high-quality digital cameras. The school is in the process of purchasing cameras to remove this access.
- Mobile phones are no longer permitted to be used as revision tools in pre-exam briefings
- Toilets. If students request to go to the toilet during lessons, then they must leave their bags in class. Should the student require to take their bag to the toilet for any reason, then the teacher will ask if they have their mobile phone in their bag and if so, it must remain on the teacher's desk. On their return the teacher must ensure it is placed back in the bag.
- Toilets at social times. Students will be asked to leave their bags with a friend or hang their bag on the hooks just inside the toilet's doorway.
If they require their bag to go into the toilets, then the phone must be left with the member of staff on duty. Failure to do so will result in confiscation and sanctions.
- Students must have access to their school timetable in their planner and are **not able to check their timetable on their mobile phone**. Should they lose their planner, a temporary timetable can be collected from Students services before school until a new planner is purchased.
- Students must **check their class charts** for Value points or detentions **when they are at home**, and this is not a reason to request access to their mobile phone during the day.
- **Parents and students to only communicate via landline.** Students can request this at break or lunch time or after school via Student services or seeing their Pastoral year lead. Parental communication must come via the school reception. If there is an urgent need to pass a message on, then school will enable this via student services. If parents need to speak to their child, then this can be enabled via reception liaising with student services.
- If students wish to contact parents regarding staying for an after-school club or a sporting fixture, then this is done via student services calling parents at break, lunch time or afterschool.

- The use of **mobile phones is prohibited at after school sessions as this is a continuation of the school day**. Students should not have access to mobile phones at this time, and they should remain in bags.
- Sporting fixtures, **school trips and off-site activities**. Students contacting parents on the return journey from such events ensures students are collected safely and is part of safeguarding young people walking home outside of normal school hours. Students may have access to their mobile phones when not to would impact on their safety.
- **Smart watches, tablets and any wearable technology capable of communication** are included in the latest guidance from the Department for Education and so as per external exams are no longer permitted on site and not accessible during the school day in the same way as mobile phone access is denied. Consequences equally apply to smart watches.
- Should students forget to place their mobile in their bag, then they **must seek permission from a member of staff** to move it to their bag and demonstrate that it is turned off.
- The school uses a number of **apps for homework** including Educake and Sparks Maths. These should **not be accessed via student's mobile phones unless at home**. Should a student's wish to complete homework at school, homework clubs run each night with access to school computers.

Consequences and sanctions

- If a student is found to have a mobile phone on their person, the phone is confiscated and a next day C4 one hour detention is given by that member of staff. The phone is handed into student services who retain it until the end of the school day. This event is recorded by student services.
- Should a student be found with a mobile phone in their bag that is switched on, then the phone is confiscated and a next day C4 one hour detention is logged.
- Should the **school become suspicious of a student having access** to a mobile phone with it being on their person, the **school reserves the right to search** as per our "Searching, Screening and Confiscation (including Electronic Devices) Policy".
- Should a student have their mobile phone confiscated for a second time, a further C4 is awarded, and the mobile phone remains in school until a parent or carer can collect it. The student will also serve a one-week mobile phone ban which means they **must hand their mobile phone into student services every day** for 5 school days.
- A further confiscation would lead to an extended ban. Depending on the circumstances, this may take the form of several weeks or the remainder of the term or school year.
- Students **failing to cooperate with confiscation** will be placed in internal exclusion to reflect and should this not lead to cooperation, the student will be suspended for not following school expectations. Refusal to go into Internal exclusion will result in immediate suspension.

- Any **suspension related to mobile phones** will include a discussion over the length of phone ban at the reintegration meeting.
- **Flagrant use of mobile phones or repeated accessing of them** will result in escalating appropriate sanctions such as Internal exclusion and suspension. As with any behaviour frequent failure to follow school rules could result in off-site direction or permanent exclusion.

Students are aware of the school's policy, and the use of sanctions is rare events despite the vigilant approach. **Pastoral Senior Leaders will monitor infringements of this policy and advise on whether the current policy is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Children's well being and Schools Bill 2026.**

The school reserves the right to adapt and amend this policy within the policy review dates should there be a requirement to further strengthen our approach.