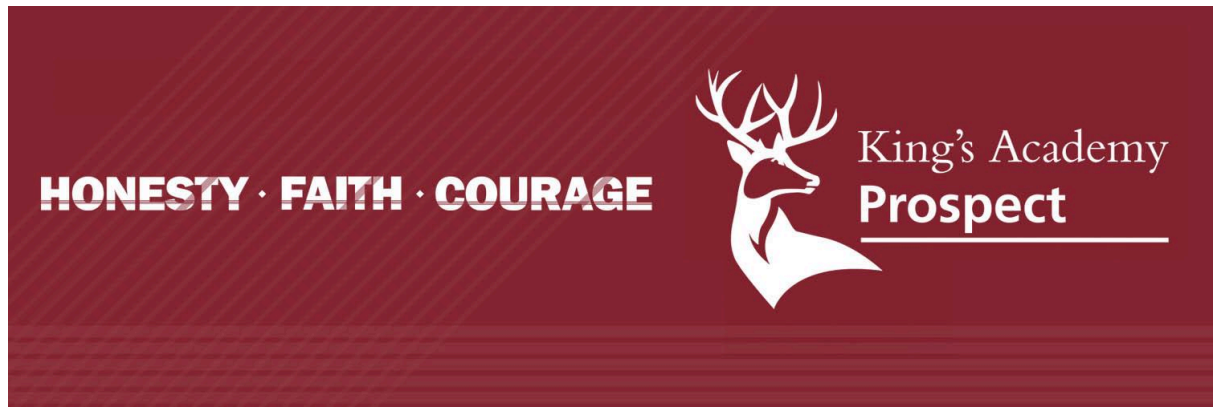




Mobile Phone Policy

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Mobile Phone Policy

1. Rationale and Context King's Academy Prospect is committed to creating a safe, focused, and positive learning environment that supports the academic success and well-being of all students.

In recent years, the negative impact of smartphones on young people's mental health and attention spans has become undeniable. In his foundational book *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt outlines how the shift from a "play-based childhood" to a "phone-based childhood" has driven a youth mental health crisis, leading to increased rates of anxiety, depression, and sleep deprivation.

In response to this evidence, and in line with the **Department for Education (DfE) *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance (2024, updated January 2026)**—which backs headteachers in banning mobile phone use to minimise disruption and improve classroom behaviour—the school is updating its policy regarding the types of devices allowed on site.

2. Device Guidance and Digital Safety (Years 7–11)

Effective from September 2026, we recommend that students use "brick" or "dumb" phones, although this is not mandatory. Please be aware that mobile phones are not considered suitable for the completion of homework.

Furthermore, we advise that students under the age of 13 (and older students pending government consultation) should not have access to social media sites such as Snapchat, Instagram, or WhatsApp. We ask for parental support in monitoring this.

Note: Smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watches) are also classified as smart devices and are subject to the same restrictions as mobile phones under this policy.

3. Medical Exemptions The school recognises that some students require the use of a smartphone for essential medical management, such as continuous glucose monitors (CGM) for diabetes.

Students who require a smartphone for medical reasons are exempt from handing in their phone each day. To obtain this exemption:

- Parents/Carers must provide **medical evidence** to Student Services.
- Student Services will maintain a **central medical exemption list**.
- This list will be shared with all teaching and support staff so they are fully aware of which students are permitted to have and use a smartphone for health monitoring purposes.
- Students with an exemption are only permitted to use their smartphone for its medical purpose; general use (messaging, browsing) remains strictly prohibited.

4. Sixth Form Exemption Students in the Sixth Form are permitted to bring smartphones onto the school site, recognising their greater independence and maturity. However, the use of these devices is strictly limited to the **designated Pros6 rooms in F Block**.

Any Sixth Form student found using a smartphone outside of this designated area (including in corridors, standard classrooms, or general school grounds) will be treated the same as a main school student and will be subject to the immediate confiscation policy detailed below.

5. Collection of Phones During the School Day

- All students must hand their mobile phones (whether a smart phone or brick phone) into their form tutors during the morning line up.
- These devices will be stored securely until the end of the day.
- At the end of the day, there will be a final tutor line up where phones will be returned to students.
- If a student has a detention, their phone will be returned after the detention has been completed.
- Medical exemptions apply, for example, for students who use their phones as a diabetes monitor.
- If students refuse to hand in their phone, they will complete the school day in internal suspension.

6. Searching, Screening, and Confiscation Policy The school takes breaches of this policy seriously. If a non-exempt student is found in possession of a mobile phone, or is seen using a mobile phone during the school day (including Sixth Formers outside of the Pros6 F Block area), the device will be confiscated immediately.

In accordance with the **DfE's *Searching, screening and confiscation* statutory guidance**, school staff have the legal power to search for and confiscate any item that is banned by the school rules.

- If students are found to have phones on them during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and they will sit an internal suspension.
- Phones will only ever be returned to parents after confiscation, following a meeting with the Head of Progress.

References:

[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

[Behaviour in schools - GOV.UK](#)

[Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK](#)

[The Anxious Generation Out Now. Order the Book.](#)

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

<https://www.generationfocus.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Updated Mobile Phone Policy

1. I need to be able to contact my child during the school day/they need to be able to contact me:

If there is a genuine family emergency, please call the main school reception. Our staff will immediately locate your child and bring them to the office to speak with you or pass on the message.

In the case of an emergency children can phone home from the school office. Constant contact with home hinders the development of independence, confidence and problem-solving skills - an essential part of childhood development. Autonomy is healthy! Children need to be able to find solutions to problems themselves without constant contact with a parent.

2. We need to teach children responsible use of technology to equip them for the digital world:

We are not anti-technology. We support parents to give their children a smartphone when they are 16 and their brains are better able to handle the challenges of profit-driven algorithms and the risk of dangerous content. Smartphones do not give children any digital literacy. The skills required to use a smartphone are extremely basic - it takes minutes to learn how to navigate TikTok. The challenge is protecting children from addiction, exposure to extreme content and the enormous opportunity cost while their brains are still developing.

Children's digital literacy can be supported through the use of a laptop or chromebook - these devices support the completion of homework much better than a smartphone, and the cost of a brick phone and basic laptop is often much less than the cost of a smartphone.

3. This policy is encroaching on my child's human rights:

A child's rights must be treated with the utmost respect. Smartphones and social media allow children to be exploited, sent or shown harmful content and filmed or photographed without their consent. A child has a right to be protected from harm, and as adults it is our job to ensure that this happens. Allowing children unsupervised access to the internet, which lays them open to inappropriate content, exploitation and grooming, does not respect their rights.

4. This is unfair - my child's smartphone is safe and they never use it during the school day:

The new mandatory collection policy significantly mitigates safeguarding risks by ensuring all devices are securely stored away during the school day. This prevents any child from being exposed to harmful material or being photographed without consent, regardless of how safe their own device is. The

risk comes from any device present in the environment; by collecting all phones at the start of the day, we create a safer space for everyone.

A recent [Parentkind](#) survey shows that 47% of kids with parental controls on their smartphones are bypassing them. 71% of children with parental controls in place have still experienced harm online. Even if parental controls were watertight it is impossible to guarantee every smartphone is adequately locked down. Every child is only as safe as the least safe phone.

5. My child has diabetes and needs a phone to monitor their blood sugar levels:

If your child requires a smartphone to monitor a health condition, please contact Student Services with the relevant medical evidence. They will be added to the central exemption list, and all staff will be notified. Exempt smartphones must only be used for medical purposes.

6. My child has special educational needs and needs a phone:

Educational psychologists tell us that children with SEND are more vulnerable to online harms and often less able to resist addictive-by-design technology.

Invariably they benefit from a smartphone-free environment even more. Where assistive technology is used (eg for dyslexia) this should be delivered on a school-approved device that does not have mobile internet access or other apps.

7. Do smartwatches count as mobile phones? Yes. Smartwatches (such as Apple Watches) that can receive messages, access the internet, or connect to cellular networks are classified as smart devices and are banned under this policy.

8. What are the rules for Sixth Form students? Sixth Form students are exempt from the ban, provided they only use their smartphones within the designated Pros6 rooms in F Block. If a Sixth Form student is seen using a smartphone outside of this area, the device will be confiscated.

9. What happens if my child accidentally brings a phone to school? All students must hand in their devices at the morning lineup, regardless of whether they were brought accidentally or intentionally. If a student fails to hand in their device and is found in possession of it during the school day, the device will be immediately confiscated and the student will be subject to the internal suspension procedures as outlined in Section 6.