

Godstowe

School Policy

Mobile Phone

Reviewed
May 2026

1. Introduction

Godstowe School is committed to providing a calm, safe and focused learning environment. In line with the Department for Education's updated guidance (April 2026) and the Independent School Standards (paras 3.21–3.23), the school operates as a **mobile phone-free environment by default**. Mobile phones and other personal internet-enabled devices (including smartwatches) are not permitted to be seen or used on school premises, except for the limited, closely managed exceptions set out below.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all pupils of Godstowe, including day pupils and boarders. Separate arrangements for boarders are detailed in section

3. Day Pupils

- Day pupils may not bring a mobile phone or any smart device (including smartwatches) to school.
 - There is no exception for bus travel, as the school now provides a bus tracking app for parents to monitor journeys.
 - If a day pupil is found in possession of a mobile phone or prohibited device on school premises, this will be treated as a breach of this policy.
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4. Boarders

4.1 Personal mobile phones

- On arrival at school (or at the start of each term), a boarder must hand their personal mobile phone to a member of the boarding team.
- The phone will be kept securely locked away by the boarding team.
- Boarders may only retrieve their personal phone when leaving the school premises for a holiday or an exeat (i.e., not during normal school days or weekends on site).
- No boarder may use a personal mobile phone on school premises during term time except as expressly permitted by the boarding house rules, which shall be consistent with this policy.

4.2 School-provided non-smart phones

- The school may issue a basic non-smart phone (e.g., a device capable only of calls and texts, with no internet access, camera, or apps) to a boarder for the duration of a phone call home, or other specific occasion where communication is necessary for safety or logistical reasons.
- Such phones remain the property of the school and are loaned to the pupil under the supervision of a member of staff.
- These devices are not for personal use outside the specifically authorised call. Any misuse (e.g., attempting to use the phone for calls or texts, or retaining the phone beyond the authorised period)

will be treated as a breach of this policy and may result in a sanction.

5. Prohibited Devices and Practices (All Pupils)

*The following are **not permitted**:*

- Bringing a personal phone to school without a permitted reason (boarders at any time other than arrival or departure for holidays/exeats).
- Failing to hand in a personal phone as required.
- Using another pupil's phone.
- Bringing smartwatches, AirPods, or any other device capable of messaging, calling, photography, or internet access (these are treated as mobile phones under this policy).
- Accessing a phone during the school day for any reason, including checking the time (pupils should use classroom clocks or ask staff).
- Boarders retaining or using a school-provided non-smart phone outside of the authorised trip or activity.

6. Sanctions

If a pupil is found in possession of a mobile phone or prohibited device in breach of this policy:

- The pupil **will receive a sanction** in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- The incident will be **recorded centrally**.
- The device will be confiscated. Repeat or serious breaches may result in the loss of the privilege to bring a phone to school for a defined period, or further disciplinary action (including detention or exclusion as set out in the Behaviour Policy).

7. Parental Support

Parents and carers are expected to support this policy. Please do not contact your daughter on her personal mobile phone during the school day, use the School Office. Parents must not encourage a pupil to conceal a phone or check messages secretly.