

Mobile Phone 'Gate-to-Gate' Ban - FAQs

What does 'gate-to-gate' mean? This means phones can be kept in bags and switched off whilst anywhere on the school site. They should not be visible at any time on the school site, either in hands or in pockets.

What happens if I am seen in possession of a phone? Please see flowchart ([click here](#) to access) as a reminder.

What if I need to contact home? We have ensured that Student Services (Reception) is fully staffed to enable students to report there and make the necessary phone calls. We do ask, however, that students think ahead and plan the week/day so these questions can be answered the night before, where possible. We understand this might take time as children have become so heavily reliant on their phones for a range of reasons.

Am I allowed to use my phone to contact parents/carers at lunch? No. Either e-mail using your iPad or report to Student Services, where staff will either phone for you or let you use the school phone.

Can I email my parents/carers using my iPad? Yes, this will be a good way to communicate. It might be worth agreeing at home what the best e-mail address is for the most effective communication.

How do we notify students and parents/carers if clubs get cancelled or changed? Staff will inform Mr Ash and Mr Bowers (Study Support team). Front Office staff will be informed and the register system/teamsheets will be used to e-mail pupils and parents/carers to let them know. Changes will also be publicised via the school website and social media.

Can I enable Bluetooth headphones/AirPods for my iPad? If teachers need students to use headphones, they will supply them. Students can keep headphones in their bags but they must only be seen when the teacher has requested they are used. AirPods/wireless headphones should not be visible; these will be treated in the same way as mobile phones.

Can I use an Apple Watch or other 'smart watch'? We ask that all Apple Watches/smart watches are left at home, since these can be used to access social media in the same way as phones are. Alternatively, they can be kept in bags with, or instead of, mobile phones, but must be switched off.

Are teachers going to stop using their mobile phones? As members of staff, we have a responsibility to model this for our students. Over-reliance on mobile phones is not healthy for us either! There will be situations where phones, including work mobiles, may be required. As much as is possible, these will be kept in staff bases or securely stowed away in classrooms where students do not see them.

What if I get anxious? Students should report to a member of staff or use the @Talk app on their iPads, which is monitored closely during the school day. This will trigger support and parents/carers will be called if there are any further concerns.

I use my phone for revision and have some revision apps on there that are blocked on my iPad... Report this to the ICT Office and we will arrange for these to be unblocked.

Can I use my phone on school trips? On residential trips, yes. We feel it is important that you can make easy contact with your family whilst away from home. For sports fixtures and short trips, phones should be switched off and kept in bags until the staff leading the trip say they can be used to update parents/carers.

Will I be able to listen to music on my iPad? We are enabling Spotify, with parental consent, for Year 11 students only in the first instance whilst we see how this goes.

Can the Trainline app be unblocked on the iPads to check train times/changes? Yes, this has been sorted.

Can I use my mobile phone for my bus pass as they use QR codes on the service buses? Once a child boards a bus, we will view this as leaving the school site so phones can be retrieved from bags as you board the bus.