St Gregory's CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy

'Every child is known and loved.'

We provide every student in our care with a world-class Catholic education, welcoming them into our inclusive and caring community in which every child is known and loved.

We teach students to understand their own unique value and dignity, so they may recognise and realise their God-given potential and, inspired by the life of St Gregory, we empower them to approach the opportunities of their education with vigour. We aim for our students to adopt the role of servant leaders, acting with empathy and integrity to make unique and positive contributions to society and the world.

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Author:	N Bradbury	Owner:	St Gregory's School
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At St Gregory's School, we believe that maintaining a focused and respectful learning environment is crucial for the school and personal development of our students. In line with this, the use of mobile phones during school hours is strictly prohibited. The following guidelines outline the school's policy on mobile phone usage:

1. Mobile Phone Ban

Mobile phones are banned during school hours. This includes all areas of the school premises and during any school-related activities unless prior permission has been granted by a member of staff for a specific reason.

2. Confiscation Policy

If a mobile phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated immediately by a member of staff. Students must switch phones off and placed into their bags before they enter the school site. Students must not take their phone out of their bag until they are completely off the school site.

3. Consequences for Initial Confiscation

Confiscation will result in:

- A 30-minute detention the following day.
- The phone will be confiscated until the end of the following day.

4. Defiance and Refusal to Comply

Any student who refuses to hand over their phone or walks away from staff when asked to hand over their phone will be considered as displaying defiant behaviour.

This will result in a 90-minute detention the following day.

5. Further Disciplinary Action

Repeated violations or ongoing defiance may result in additional consequences, including:

- **Parent/guardian meetings**.
- **In-school suspension**.
- **Fixed-term exclusion**, depending on the severity of the situation.

6. Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, students may be allowed to carry a mobile phone with prior permission from the school administration. This should be arranged in advance and only for valid reasons.

We expect all students to respect and adhere to this policy to ensure a positive and distraction-free school environment at St Gregory's School.

7. Smartphone-free environment (Year 7 September 2026)

In line with strengthened national guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education, schools are expected to be phone-free throughout the school day, with no use of mobile phones at any time, including for calculators, research, or learning activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to support consistent enforcement across all settings.

From September 2026, all Year 7 students will be part of a fully smartphone-free environment. This move supports national expectations and a coordinated town-wide approach among local schools to reduce peer pressure, improve wellbeing, and promote healthier habits around technology from the start of secondary education.

As part of our safeguarding and digital education responsibilities, students will also be taught how to stay safe whilst in school and when using school devices, as well as how to stay safe online when using devices at home. This forms part of our wider digital literacy and online safety.

What Year 7 Students *May* Bring

Year 7 students may bring a basic “dumbphone” for travel or safety purposes. These devices must:

- Have no internet capability
- Be switched off and stored away from arrival until students leave the school site
- Not be used during lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, or transitions

What Year 7 Students *May Not* Bring

- **Smartphones**, including any device with internet access
- **Smartwatches** or wearable devices capable of messaging or internet connectivity

Any such device brought on site will be confiscated.

Confiscation Procedures
To ensure consistency and fairness, the following confiscation rules will apply to Year 7:

- **Smartphone or smartwatch brought onto school site**
  30-minute detention the following day and the smartphone confiscated for 7 days

- **Dumbphone switched on or visible during the school day**
  30-minute detention the following day and the smartphone confiscated until the end of the following day

In exceptional circumstances, parents may collect a confiscated device from the school office.

Medical Exceptions
We recognise that some students rely on digital devices for essential medical monitoring, including:

- Continuous glucose monitors (CGM)
- Smartphones linked to insulin pumps or calibration apps
- Other clinically prescribed digital health devices

Where medically necessary:

- These devices will be permitted, including smartphones that form part of a medical monitoring system
- Use must be strictly limited to medical purposes, as outlined in an Individual Healthcare Plan
- Parents/carers must provide appropriate medical documentation, enabling our medical and pastoral teams to create and review a care plan

This ensures students' health and safety are never compromised while maintaining a clear phone-free environment for all other students.

Rollout Across Key Stage 3

This policy will expand annually as follows:

- **September 2026** → Applies to **Year 7**
- **September 2027** → Applies to **Years 7 & 8**
- **September 2028** → Applies to **Years 7, 8 & 9 (full KS3)**

Rationale – Why This Matters

Government guidance and Ofsted expectations clearly highlight that mobile phones:

- Disrupt learning
- Increase distraction
- Affect student wellbeing
- Reduce quality of in-person social interaction

Removing smartphones during the day aims to create:

- A calmer, more focused learning environment
- Improved face-to-face communication
- Reduced social media-related anxiety

As the Education Secretary has emphasised, schools need parents to support these policies.