

Mobile Phones In Schools: Trust Position:

In January 2026 the Department for Education announced that “All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.” This [guidance](#) becomes a requirement on 29th June 2026.

Quantock Education Trust is committed to creating learning environments where every student can thrive. We recognise that young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives both online and offline. While mobile technology can provide opportunities for communication and learning, it can also create academic, emotional and social distractions. This is very well supported now by all the evidence on the use of smart phones. Likewise, our aim is to support focused, purposeful and respectful school communities by ensuring that the school day remains free from the disruption of mobile phone use, and therefore their use is prohibited within our schools.

Students may bring mobile phones on their travel to school; however, phones must be switched off and kept securely in students’ bags once they are on the school site and throughout the school day. This approach enables students to retain possession of their phones for travel to and from school, while supporting a calm, focused and distraction and mobile-free environment during school hours.

Secondary School Implementation:

Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited. Students can only bring mobile devices into school if they are turned off and in their bag, unless in very specific circumstances if agreed by prior arrangement as part of a supportive SEND/additional need arrangement directly with Headteachers.

We are adopting a uniform '**See it. Hear it. Take it**' response across both secondaries with confiscation as a first response followed by other disciplinary sanctions eg suspension for repeated infringement/defiance of expectations.

In Sexey’s Sixth form and in Boarding, additional arrangements are in place at school level to support young people in managing their mobile phone use appropriately in these provisions.

Primary School Implementation:

Mobile phone use is strictly prohibited. The following expectations are in place across all primaries:

- Years 5 and 6 pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones to school if they are walking to or from school alone.
- Pupils must hand their phones in to their class teachers at the start of each day.
- Pupils are not allowed to have their phones on or with them during the school day or during any Extended Services provision.
- Parental permission will need to be provided to allow pupils to bring a mobile phone to school.
- The school cannot assume liability for issues associated with loss or damage to mobile phones.

Our Primary schools may use one or more of the following sanctions in response to breaking the above mobile phone rules:

- Confiscate device
- A verbal reprimand and reminder of the expectations of behaviour
- Letter or phone call home to parents
- Suspension for repeated infringement

Personal circumstances of the pupil will be considered when choosing sanctions and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

We thank parents and carers for their support in helping us to maintain mobile free schools.