

Mobile Phones and Portable Devices Policy

Myton School



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1. Statement of Intent

At Myton, our vision is to equip students for lifelong success. We do this through our core principles of:

- Removing barriers
- Investing in futures
- Working together
- Developing self-assured learners

We guide students to CARE, so all students can achieve lifelong success by being:

- Community Minded: always thinking of others
- Aspirational: having high standards for themselves, their futures, and for those around them
- Respectful: of themselves, their peers and their community
- Engaged: in their learning and the world around them

2. Rationale

Smartphones and smart devices can hinder engagement with learning, increase the safeguarding risks to students when at school, in the local community and when travelling to and from school. Students coming into school with smart devices that facilitate access to harmful or inappropriate content and have functions that enable inappropriate behaviour or cyberbullying (e.g. access to social media, photo and video cameras) makes it impossible for school to give every child a safe, protected learning environment. This policy has been introduced to minimise disruption to the school day and to help tackle cyber bullying, sexting, sharing of indecent images, online grooming and device addiction.

This policy therefore brings into force a ban on any personal internet-enabled devices at Myton School for students in Years 7 to 11. This ban includes smartphones and associated devices (earbuds/smart watches etc.) which will be prohibited at Myton School from September 2026. In addition, the ban will include time when students are representing Myton school on trips and during travel to and from school (on buses or otherwise). However, even with the smartphone ban in place, it is important to emphasise that technology will remain an important part of our curriculum journey; we are committed to educating students in the correct use of technology, in an age-appropriate manner to prepare them for lifelong success.

3. Implementation

From September 2026, students in Years 7 to 11 can only carry a phone at Myton that is non-internet enabled. Smartphone, smart watches, wireless headphones or other app-enabled wearable technology of all kinds will be strictly prohibited.

This policy gives details (Appendix 2) of non-internet enabled phones which are allowed on site, switched off and in bags, as we recognise the desire of parents and students to be able to communicate outside of school. Tracking devices are also allowed.

3.1 Years 7-11 Students – rules for carrying a non-internet enabled phone

Parents who wish their child to carry an **approved mobile phone** to school must make sure their child adheres to the following rules:

- The phone must be switched off before the student enters the school site and placed in their school bag “bag not blazer.”
- The phone must be clearly marked with the student’s name
- The phone must not be brought out at any point during the school day and should only be used after school when the student is off the school site
- The phone remains the responsibility of the student at all times, and the school will not take action if it is lost or stolen.

3.2 Searching

There may be occasions where a member of staff is required to search a student’s personal belongings to look for a prohibited item (see [Behaviour Policy](#)). Any such search will be conducted in accordance with the DfE guidance on searching and screening.

- All prohibited phones will automatically be confiscated for two school weeks if found as part of a search.
- Any phone that is seen or heard during the school day (school approved or otherwise) will automatically be confiscated. This includes phones that have been heard from within a student’s uniform or bag.

3.3 Confiscation

When a “school approved phone” is confiscated, it will be handed in to a central identified lockable point to be collected at the end of the day. If a student repeatedly has their “school approved phone” out, sanctions will be escalated.

Prohibited smartphones, smart watches, wireless headphones or other app-enabled wearable technology of any kind will be securely locked away for two school weeks in the first instance and then returned to parents. Repeated confiscation may result in this period of confiscation being lengthened.

Any non-approved phone will be classified as a ‘prohibited phone’ and confiscated for two weeks and the following will apply:

- If the two weeks end during a school holiday, students receive their phone back on return to school, and not before.
- If needed, the student will be allowed to use a school phone to contact their parents/carers before they leave the school.

- A student refusing to hand over their phone will be immediately taken to internal exclusion and held for a parent to come into school to support the confiscation of the phone.
- Continued failure to hand phone in will result in higher level sanctions including suspension and off site direction.

3.4 Adjustment to the policy for students with medical needs

Individual adjustments will be made for students who have an identified need to use a smart device to monitor medical conditions e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, hearing aids. In each instance this needs to be prearranged with the school and the school will work with parents and carers to determine the specific needs of each student on an individual basis. Only the Headteacher may exempt a student from this policy. Pastoral staff will signpost students if they need access to online health support during the day if needed.

3.5 Sixth Form Students

Parents who wish their Sixth Form child to carry a mobile phone to school must ensure their child adheres to the following rules:

- Sixth form students are able to have a phone of their choice and are permitted to have smartwatches and wireless earbuds.
- Devices can only be used within the Sixth Form block and in a manner which does not disturb the learning of others.
- Students are prohibited from using their phones to record videos of each other while on site, or on the way to and from school, without permission from a member of staff.
- Outside of the Sixth Form block, the phone must not be brought out at any point during the school day and should only be used after school when the student is out of sight of the school entrances.
- The phone remains the responsibility of the student at all times, and the school will not take action if it is lost or stolen.
- Any phone that is seen or heard during the school day outside the block will automatically be confiscated. This includes phones that have been heard from within a student's uniform or bag.
- If a student does not follow the rules outlined within the phone policy, then their phone will be confiscated and handed to the Sixth Form team. This can be collected at the end of the school day.
- If a Sixth Form student repeatedly has their phone confiscated, sanctions will be considered.

4. Trips and Residentials

This policy remains in place for all trips and residentials where all smartphones or internet enabled devices will be banned. Students are also not permitted to bring any other electronic device that has access to the internet including games consoles etc.

Staff on residential trips will have phones where students are able to contact parents if necessary.

Sixth Form students will be able to take their phones but will only be able to use them in designated places while on trips and residentials. The rules for each trip or residential will be made clear by the staff before it starts and students will be expected to comply in full.

Appendix 1 – Guidance from Stagecoach regarding purchasing bus passes

StagecoachSmart:

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/stagecoachsmart>

StagecoachSmart is the quickest, easiest and safest way to buy and use Stagecoach bus tickets.

Why you'll love StagecoachSmart

Stagecoach Smart is an electronic card that stores your tickets securely and makes it simple for you to buy tickets online and on the bus.

You can load more than one ticket onto your card, or have multiple cards registered to your account so you can add and manage all your family's cards.

It fits easily in your purse or wallet, so no more hunting for your paper ticket!

How to get a StagecoachSmart card

- *On the bus* - When you purchase a ticket for a week or longer on any of our buses, it will be loaded onto a StagecoachSmart card (certain exclusions apply. For example, in Oxford, you will still get a paper ticket).

If you already have a StagecoachSmart card, you can continue to top it up on the bus and online. Your Smartcard is yours to keep and reuse, so remember to bring it with you when travelling.

- *Online* - When you buy a "Smart Online" ticket from [Stagecoachbus.com](https://www.stagecoachbus.com) and request a new smart card, you will receive your ticket already loaded onto a smart card. Please allow 3-5 days for delivery.



How to use StagecoachSmart

When boarding the bus, simply place your smart card on the reader.

How to register your smart card

If you got your StagecoachSmart card on the bus it's important that you register your smart card using its unique 18-digit code on the back.

Registering your card means:

- Your tickets are protected if your smart card is lost or stolen
- You can buy tickets easily and quickly online

If you received your smart card after buying online, your card will already be registered to your account.

You must login or create an account to register your smart card.

How to top up your smart card

Your StagecoachSmart card is a reloadable card and is meant to be topped up each time you purchase a new ticket.


- *Top up on the bus* - To top up on the bus, simply present your card when purchasing your new ticket.
- *Top up online* - Once your smart card is registered to your account, simply choose your ticket and when checking out, select "Select a smart card" from the "Select/request a smart card" menu.

You can also top up in advance and choose a start date when you buy online. Please allow 2 days for your card to be updated.

Appendix 2 – Non-Internet Enabled Phones

These are our school approved mobile phones. Other non internet enabled mobile phones will be allowed but they must meet these specification rules:

- Calls and SMS only
- No wifi
- No touch screen
- No mobile data / browsing
- No App Store
- No hotspot capability
- No front facing camera

Phone		Cost
<p>TTfone TT150 2G phone and not compatible with Three, Smarty, IDMobile</p>		<p>£16.99 (Amazon)</p>
<p>Oakcastle F101 Currently 2G only so has less connectivity than other models</p>		<p>£17.95 (Amazon)</p>
<p>Nokia 105 4G Edition</p>		<p>£23.99 (Amazon)</p>
<p>Nokia 110 4G Rear Camera</p>		<p>£32.95 (Amazon)</p>