



PRIORY SCHOOL
EDGBASTON

MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCH POLICY

PUPILS

(NON-STATUTORY)

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| Trustee Committee: | Education | |
| Date Approved: | November 2025 | |
| Next of Review: | November 2028 | |
| Member of Staff Responsible: | AF Alex Flood Assistant Headteacher | |
| Trustee Overseer: | SWR – Mrs Watts-Rai | |
| Intended Audience: | Options: Employees, Parents, Volunteers and Pupils | |
| Relevance: | Whole School | No |
| | Early Years | No |
| | Preparatory | Yes |
| | Seniors | Yes |
| Access: | Website | Yes |
| | Internal | No |
| | Restricted | No |

Our Mission Statement

Priory School is a thriving, co-educational independent school founded upon a rich Catholic heritage which welcomes those from all faiths and none.

In partnership with parents and guardians we provide a nurturing, family-based ethos, alongside high-standards of teaching and learning, enabling all pupils to achieve their potential.

We embrace diversity and interfaith understanding alongside awareness of environmental and global issues, in response to the needs of our time.

The Governors and staff at Priory School are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors, regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional or cultural needs.

The Governors, staff, and pupils are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of pupils and staff.

To meet the needs of our school community, all our policies, including this policy, can be made available on different formats such as different font sizes or styles, colour, or alternate languages.

The Governing Council understands it has responsibility for ensuring the effective oversight of this policy and will assess, evaluate, and review as necessary.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY - PUPILS

Rationale

The mobile phone is an effective and quick means of communication. Mobile phones are now a feature of modern security, and most of our pupils own one.

In partnership with parents, we provide a caring community and appreciate that where unforeseen events occur, mobile phones provide pupils and their families with a ready means of communication. There is a need, however, to set clear guidelines and limit their use during the school day, in particular, to avoid unnecessary interference with teaching and learning.

The increasing sophistication of mobile phone technology presents a number of issues for schools:

- The high value of many phones.
- The integration of cameras into phones leads to potential child protection and data protection issues.
- The potential to use the phone e.g., for texting whilst on silent mode.
- The accessing of social networking sites and emails.
- Phones are causing classroom disruption.
- Students are getting too easily distracted.

This is why Priory School has become a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance.

74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour.

83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

STUDENT Mobile Phone Policy & GUIDELINES

Mobile Phones are not to be used during school.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY - PUPILS

Every student is assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

DAILY PROCESS

As students **Arrive to School**, they will:

- 1) Turn their Mobile Phone off.
- 2) Open their Yondr Pouch by tapping against the Unlocking Base.
- 3) Place their Mobile Phone inside the Pouch and secure it in front of school staff.
- 4) Store it in their backpack for the day.

At the end of the day, students will open their Pouch, remove their phone, close their Pouch and put it in their backpack. Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day.

*Students arriving late or leaving early will lock/unlock their phone pouches at Reception

VIOLATIONS

Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Mobile Phone During School

- If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, A member of the Leadership Team will collect the Mobile Phone/Pouch and call home to request a parent/guardian comes to school to pick up the mobile phone and pouch.
- This can lead to a headmaster's detention **or suspension** will be issued and a charge of £45 issued for a replacement pouch.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped fabric
- Cut or torn pouch
- Bent/damaged closure pin
- Signs of force to black button on flap

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their Pouch, **their Mobile Phone will be collected and a member of the Leadership Team will call home to remind the Parent/guardian of the policy.**

An after-school detention will be issued for a forgotten pouch.

The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

Communications

Parents or guardians wishing to leave messages for their children should do so by telephoning the school. Staff endeavour to ensure that messages are passed on during class breaks.

Front office staff also assist pupils, with the permission of a member of the Senior Management Team, who need to contact family or other persons in an emergency.

Reviewed and Revised by Alex Flood – September 2025

MOBILE PHONE POLICY - PUPILS

The Role of Staff

All staff should consistently enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones. Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. This will empower staff to better challenge pupils to meet the school expectations and effectively enforce the prohibition of mobile phones throughout the school day.

The Role of Parents

Parents have an important role in supporting the school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and should be encouraged to reinforce and discuss the policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Spot Checks

To ensure that pupils adhere to this policy, spot checks regularly take place following information received as well as repeat offenders being monitored more than others. The use of a detection wand will be deployed where necessary.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

Priory School accepts **no responsibility whatsoever** for theft, loss, damage or health effects (potential or actual) relating to mobile phones. It is the responsibility of parents and pupils to ensure mobile phones are properly insured.

Mobile Phones and the reputation of Priory School

Pupils must not use their phones or electronic devices to engage in an activity through SMS, social media apps, or online activity, both in school and outside school, which may bring the school's reputation into disrepute.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass or offend another person. As such, if action as sanctioned by the school is deemed ineffective, as with all such incidents, the school may consider it appropriate to involve the police.

Use of Smart Watches

Smart watches are not allowed on school and will be treated like mobile phones as they can access messages, media and other features from their connected devices.

Monitoring and Review

The curriculum and school procedures are constantly being reviewed to take account of educational initiatives and respond to the future priorities of the school.

This policy will be monitored by the Safeguarding Lead and the Finance and Facilities Manager, who will report to the Head on its implementation on a regular basis.

It will be reviewed by the designated member of the Governing Council.

Reviewed and Revised by Alex Flood – September 2025

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