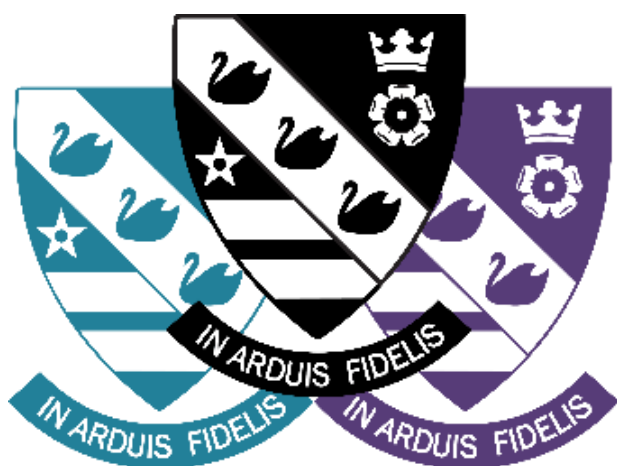


SELBY HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCE



2026 Mobile Phone Policy

Ratified by the Board of Governors

Date July 2026

Signed Andy Reed

Chairperson Andy Reed

Review Date: January 2027

Embracing Diversity

Unlocking
Potential

Inspiring Learning

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Introduction

Selby High School has established the following policy for mobile devices that provides teachers, students and parents, carers & guardians with clear guidelines and expectations regarding access to mobile devices in school.

The policy for mobile devices applies to all students, including during extra-curricular activities.

Rationale

The Department for Education have made clear that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.

As a school we are keen to embrace any technology that supports or enhances learning and we have invested heavily in technology access around school, including the use of Chromebooks, Interactive Whiteboards, and a fully resources ICT centre.

However, we are also increasingly aware of concerns regarding the impact mobile phones can have on student mental health and wellbeing, and on engagement. Research highlights the various risks to young people brought about by extensive use of mobile devices. The school, in line with government guidance, would therefore like to protect students from these risks, helping to ensure they remain focused and engaged with their school work, as well as developing effective relationships with their peers and with school staff (in line with the expectations of our Positive Relational Behaviour Policy).

With this in mind, the school, again in line with current government guidance, considers that the distractions mobile devices can cause during lessons and other school activities outweigh the benefits. For this reason, the school has adopted a policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and all similar communication technology on the school site.

Selby High School accepts that parents may choose to give their children mobile devices to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety. There is also some concern about children travelling alone on public transport or commuting long distances to school. For this reason, our policy does not extend to students having mobile phones with them as they travel to and from school.

Scope

This policy consistently applies from the point of entry into school in a morning (entrance at the inner black gates) to the end of the school day (when students have left the school site, again via the black gates). This policy also applies to extra-curricular activities within and outside of the school day. Where the policy is disapplied on specific extra-curricular activities, parents, carers and guardians will be notified of this.

Where the policy is disapplied during school hours for specific students in order to meet a student's SEND or medical needs, this will be discussed with parents, carers and guardians separately. Please see later in the policy regarding reasons for exceptions.

Definitions

"Mobile devices" includes any electronic item that can be used for communication, including but not limited to: mobile phones, audio/music devices, headphones, video devices, gaming devices, smart watches, mobile computers.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students who bring mobile devices to school to ensure they are switched off and remain in their bag whilst they are on the school grounds, and to fully abide by the guidelines contained in this document. The decision to provide a mobile device to children should be made by parents, carers or guardians and they should be aware if their child intends to take a mobile device to school.

Acceptable Use

Before entering the school site, students must turn their mobile devices off and place them out of sight in their bag for the duration of the school day and should not turn them back on until they have left the school site. Students must not use their mobile device for any purpose including but not limited to; making calls, listening to music, checking the time, taking or sending pictures or accessing the internet during the school day.

For emergency reasons parents/carers are reminded that the first point of contact for your child in an emergency should be the school reception (01757 703327), which can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted appropriately.

Students who become ill during the day must not use their mobile devices to contact parents, carers and guardians; they should use the established procedure via their Year Manager or Student Services. Where a student does use their mobile device during the day for this, the below consequences will apply.

Theft, damage or loss

Mobile devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to Student Services. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile devices.

Sanctions

Students are expected to switch their mobile phones off and put them in their bags before they come onto the school site. There will be a reminder at the gate.

Where a mobile device is seen or heard within the times above, this will be confiscated, and stored safely in Reception and returned at the end of the day.

If a student is seen with their mobile phone, the student will receive:

- First offence - 1/2 day internal exclusion
- Second offence - Full day internal exclusion

Where a second offence occurs the student will need to hand the mobile device in at their Key Stage Office on arrival to school for the remainder of the school year, and parents and carers will be informed of the arrangement. The phone will be kept in a locker in the Key Stage Office.

For a first offence, where a mobile device is seen to not be in a bag but has not been used or gone off, for example is in a pocket, a 30 minute detention will be issued. The phone will be confiscated.

For a first offence, where a mobile phone is not seen but goes off, a 30-minute detention will be issued. The phone will be confiscated.

Where a student refuses to allow their mobile device to be confiscated, this will result in PCGs being contacted to come into school to pick up the device and the student will be given an additional day in Internal Exclusion. A student who refuses to hand their phone in, even when their parents or carers have come into school, will receive a suspension.

If pcgs cannot come into school, and the student continues to use the mobile phone, the student will receive a suspension the following day. The student will then be asked to keep their phone in the key stage office, even if this is a first offence.

Policy Exemptions

Where a diagnosed SEND or medical need requires access to a mobile device during the day (for example diabetic students who use a device to monitor blood sugar levels), exemptions can be made to this policy.

Where that is the case, students will be allowed to use a mobile device within school, and a clear plan for where and when this can take place will be communicated with PCGs in writing. Any uses other than those outlined in writing will result in the normal sanctions outlined above.

Off-site Alternative Provision

Where students are in off-site alternative provision organised by school, mobile device pouches will be used so that devices are not usable during the day. These will be released at the end of the day. Where a student refuses to place their device in a lockable pouch, this will be treated as the same as a student refusing to have a mobile device confiscated, as outlined above.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in 6 months. The school will be looking at the effectiveness of supplying magnetic pouches and other solutions to create a mobile device free school, in line with Department for Education guidelines.