



Mobile phones at Overton Grange School

We recognise that mobile phones are part of modern life and students need to learn to use and manage them appropriately. However, we are also aware of the impact on mental health if anyone becomes over-dependent on their phone and of the obvious potential mobile phones have to disrupt learning. Research evidence shows that academic performance improves when students do not have use of mobile phones in school. We also want to ensure that students use the school day to socialise with each other in person and not rely on social media to interact with others.

Our expectations are:

- Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school and may choose to use them on the way to and from school. **Smart watches are not allowed in school.**
- Phones are not to be seen on the school site, unless directed by the class teacher for an educational purpose. **At all other times, phones must be in a bag or zipped pocket of a blazer – i.e. out of sight at all times. Phones must also be switched off or on mute. If airpods are being worn, staff will assume a phone is being used.**
- Phones must be left with the teacher if a student leaves a lesson to go to the toilet, etc.
- The rules about mobile phones apply to all students, including Y12 and Y13. However, sixth form students are allowed to use their phones in the sixth form common room

Students who do not meet these expectations will have their phone or smartwatch confiscated. If they hand over their phone/smartwatch when asked, without discussion, it will be returned at the end of the day. Students who do not do this will be issued with a sanction and their phone/smartwatch confiscated for a longer period of time. In some cases, we may not return the phone/smartwatch to the student, but ask their parent or carer to collect it for them.

As with any valuable items, students bring mobile phones to school at their own risk.

Students in isolation are not allowed mobile phones and are expected to hand them in for safe-keeping. Students in detentions may also be asked to hand in their mobile phones.

We also ask that parents and carers do not phone their child during the school day. If you have an urgent message which needs to be passed on, this can be done through the school office.