

20 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

New Policy re Phones in School - switched off and in bags

The [Department for Education](#) has recently updated its guidance about mobile devices and now states all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. We have been working on this issue together as a school, with your firm support, for the past year or so now. As you know, our phone policy requires phones not to be seen or heard (for students in Years 7 to 11) on the school grounds from the time students arrive until the end of the day. Phones seen or heard before 3.05pm are confiscated and collected at the end of the day. This approach has been very warmly welcomed by parents/carers, as well as staff, and students are perfectly used to not being permitted to use their phones during school hours.

New procedures from Easter

In our continued efforts to maintain the important role we hold in protecting children and young people from distractions and disruptions in school we are taking a step further in our phone policy. From the summer term, after Easter, **phones are to be switched off and in school bags** (for students in Years 7 to 11) on the school grounds from the time students arrive until the end of the day. Students in the library, attending homework clubs or detentions after school may not use their phones until they leave the school site.

Why this is important

This policy update is to further ensure we continue to remove the complexity and risks that mobile phones create including:

- Distraction
- Disruption
- Bullying and abuse

Students who attend a school where phones are banned experience an education environment free from distraction and disruption. These students are more likely to pass at least 5 GCSEs and can achieve as much as an extra 7% in their GCSE exams.

If you need to contact your child at school

Please remember that students can contact home via Student Reception and parents/carers can contact the school by phone on 01403 787200 or by email at office@theweald.org.uk, or alternatively please see the 'Contact Us' part of our website [here](#). We know that schools which follow this approach have the highest expectations and achieve the best outcomes for their students.

Sanctions

The Department for Education is very clear that schools should use appropriate sanctions if rules about phones are breached. If seen or heard, phones will be confiscated and must be collected by the student at the end of the school day on the first occasion; by the third occasion, by parents/carers.

Medical conditions

Students with medical conditions who require constant access to their phones are of course exempt.

Your support

Please continue to support us by discussing this with your child(ren) at home and reinforcing the message that easy access to phones in a trouser or blazer pocket is simply too great a temptation - not just for children, but for adults too. We all want young people to focus on what they come to school for, i.e. learning and social interactions. We know this is what helps them to do their best.

Online safety

I am sure you know that we teach our students how to behave safely online and we promote the importance of respect and kindness in our everyday interactions. Sadly, we all see examples of people in the wider world not adhering to these values with each other on social media, and of course young people are heavily influenced by what they see online. It is our duty as the adults in their lives to help them to regulate their behaviour and we strongly encourage you to check your child's online activities routinely. The Child Protection Company suggests the [4 Cs of online behaviour](#):

- **Conduct:** How is your child behaving online? Are they being kind?
- **Content:** What is your child viewing online? Is it appropriate and safe?
- **Contact:** Who is your child connecting with online? Are they speaking to unsafe strangers?
- **Commerce:** What sites or services is your child signing up to online? Are they at risk of identity theft, fraud or other scams?

I hope the information in this letter is beneficial to you and that you will support our stronger stance on phones at school.

As part of our normal practice, we will be holding a standards assembly with all Year 7 to 11 students at the start of the new term, and we will be explaining the benefits to them of not having their phones so easily to hand. We will also remind students about our normal expectations about their conduct in school (i.e. Ready, Respectful, Working, Safe), in particular with regard to being on time to lessons and keeping jewellery to a minimum as per our policy (i.e. one ring, necklace, bracelet, 2 ear studs and a watch).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all a very happy Easter when it comes.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Edwards
Headteacher