The Weald
community school
and sixth form

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Approved by the Full Governing Body on:	22nd September 2026
Next review date:	July 2027
Signed by Chair of Committee:	Nicola Waters

MOBILE PHONES
to include wireless headphones and earbuds

The Department for Education states all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. We recommend that mobile phones, smart watches and earbuds are **not** brought to school as they are not essential. However, if you wish your child to bring either of these items to school, they must be turned off and in their school bag and the following code of conduct must be followed.

For Years 8 to 11, if seen or heard between entering the school and 15:05, phones will be confiscated and can be collected by the student at the end of the school day on the first occasion; by the third occasion, by parents/carers. Repeated infringements will lead to a phone ban (no phone allowed in school). Refusal to hand over a phone will lead to IX (internal isolation) until the matter is resolved. ***For Year 7 2026-2027 Smart phones are not permitted and if seen or heard between entering the school and 15:05 they will be confiscated and should be collected by parents from the first occasion.***

1. Mobile phones*/earbuds should not be in use between entering school and 15:05 and turned off in their school bag.

2. In emergencies a teacher or another member of staff is always available. Students must go to Student Reception should they need to contact home.

3. Parents/carers can contact students via the school by phone on 01403 787200 or by email at office@thewealdorg.uk, or alternatively please see our 'Contact Us' part of our website here. We know that schools which follow this approach achieve the highest expectations and outcomes for their students.

4. Students with medical conditions who require constant access to their phones are of course exempt and must see their Head of House for approval.

5. Voice, text messages, pictures or videos should never be sent or received in lessons, assemblies, interviews, tests and examinations. The exam boards stipulate that any use of phones in examinations will lead to disqualification.

6. Personal mobile phones that incorporate cameras must not be used to take photographs or videos in any circumstances, or at any time, in any situation. The school has devices for students to take photos for educational reasons with the explicit permission of a teacher.

7. Personal mobile phones that incorporate voice recorders must not be used with this function at any time.

8. During school time students must follow the correct procedures for leaving the school site and must not use their mobile phone to contact their parents directly. They should report to the medical room or front reception. Parents will then be contacted. The students will be allowed to leave for medical appointments on production of a letter from parents.

9. **Social Media Concerns (images, messages, interactions on social media).**
Were The School to be informed of (potential) images (be they actual or AI), or other social media issues, then we advise parents/carers to refer it to IFD and the police

(via 101). If parents/carers allow their child a smart phone or on social media, it remains the parents'/carers' responsibility. However the school would offer support to parents/carers with this process, should it be necessary.

10. Students must realise that bringing an expensive mobile phone or earbuds to school is a risk. Theft is always possible. Parents must realise the loss or theft of either a mobile phone or earbuds is the responsibility of the parent or student and not of the school.

11. The school reserves the right, as part of an investigation, with the agreement of the student, to search the contents of a mobile phone memory. If agreement is not reached the mobile phone will be confiscated and parents will be contacted to request a search. If agreement cannot be reached with a parent, the matter will be referred to the police if there are grounds to suspect any illegal activity.

12. Our main advice to parents and carers is to look at their child's device regularly with them and to be aware of the age limits on social media apps, which are: Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, Facebook and Snapchat - 13 years old. Comprehensive advice and support is available here from CEOP, a branch of the National Crime Agency.

*Mobile phones is the generic term used to encompass any form of electronic communications equipment.

Updated September 2026