

Bradford Grammar School Mobile Devices Guidance

This guidance applies to the Junior and Senior School

- Bradford Grammar School recognises that mobile devices, such as phones and smart watches, are an important part of everydaylife for pupils, both as a tool to manage their lives safely and as an educational device in the classroom.
- The School recognises that mobile devices with internet access can be useful as tools to support teaching and learning. There are many educational websites, apps and other electronic resources available which both teachers and pupils use in the classroom or at home to assist with their education, and the School encourages the appropriate use of such technologies as part of the learning process. Bradford Grammar School aims to prepare its pupils for life in the modern world and we recognise that young people today will use technology throughout their lives for learning, work and leisure.
- Mobile devices can also be an unhelpful distraction within the school day, however; they can impact negatively on social interaction, become a focus for addictive behaviour, be used for inappropriate online activity and cyberbullying and carry the risk of theft.
- The School shares a growing concern that over-reliance on and addiction to the use of mobile devices can have a damaging effect on the mental health of some young people.
- The School accepts that pupils may sometimes need to be able to communicate with parents at times within their school day, particularly about travel arrangements. Mobile devices play an important part in safeguarding our pupils when they are commuting to school and parents may sometimes need to get a message to their child during the schoolday. Messages can be passed on to pupils via Reception or the School Office, when required, so that they need not use their mobile device for communication with their parents during the school day.

Throughout this guidance document, mobile devices means a mobile or smart phone. It does not include smart watches. Pupils in Senior School are allowed to wear a smart watch throughout the school and must use it appropriately.

In Junior School

- Mobile phones may not be brought to school without specific authorisation from the Junior School Head.
- Pupils with authorisation to bring a mobile phone, must hand their phone in at registration and this is then returned to them at dismissal.
- Pupils must not use their phones at wraparound care or on trips and fixtures unless specifically authorised by a member of staff.
- Smart watches and other electronic music or games devices are not permitted.

In Senior School

- Mobile phones and other electronic music or games devices may not be used on school premises by pupils in Years 7-11 within the school day between 8.45am and 4pm, unless specifically authorised by a member of staff.
- Pupils should not wear headphones or earphones during the School day, unless specifically authorize by a member of staff. (Ear defenders for additional needs and / or to reduce sensory overload are permitted, as appropriate).
- Mobile devices may be used in the Library for educational reasons only with permission from a librarian, but voice calls are not permitted within the Library.
- In Sixth Form,
 - Pupils in the Sixth Form may use their mobile devices in the Sixth Form Centre at any time but must not use them around the School site.
 - Mobile devices may be used in the Library for educational reasons only with permission from alibrarian, but voice calls are not permitted within the Library.

1. All Pupils

- In the case of co-curricular activities, educational trips, visits and exchanges mobile devices may only be used with the permission of the employee in charge.
- Pupils should not use mobile devices to contact parents during the school day.
- Pupils wishing to use their mobile devices to record their homework, or notes made during the lesson may do so with the permission of the subject teacher.
- Pupils may only charge their electrical devices in school with the permission of an employee and must only do so using a charger which has been PAT tested by the School. Sixth Form pupils may charge their phones from the USB ports available in the Sixth Form Centre.
- The School recognises the importance of mobile devices as a way to access organisational tools, cameras, video recording, the internet etc. Staff may choose to integrate the use of these technologies in their teaching. In a context where the use of mobile device technology has been planned within a lesson, pupils will be given permission to use their devices in class. They will be closely monitored by employees and any pupil who abuses the opportunity will be dealt with through normal School disciplinary procedures. Filming or photographing of other pupils within lessons should only take place in activities authorised by the teacher, and subject to the School's Managing Images of Children Guidance.
- Senior School and Sixth Form pupils who use a mobile device on School premises without permission, will have their device confiscated by a member of staff and will be asked to collect it at the end of the school day either from the Deputy Head's office. Three offences of confiscation across the school year results in a Monday night detention. In some circumstances, parents may be contacted to discuss whether it is appropriate to return the device immediately or extend the period of confiscation.
- If an employee has any suspicion that a mobile device has unsuitable material stored on it, or if a pupil has disrupted lessons using a device or used it for any form of bullying, the pupil will be required to hand over the device to an employee, and parents will be asked to

collect it from a senior member of the teaching staff.

2. The use of mobile devices to bully or threaten other pupils is unacceptable; cyberbullying is not tolerated at Bradford Grammar School (See the Acceptable Use Agreement and AntiBullying Policy for further details).

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency the School Office remains the appropriate point of contact and the School Office team will always ensure your child can be reached quickly when the need arises. Passing on messages through the School Office also reduces the likelihood of disruption to lessons.

Parents should be aware that whilst there are obvious benefits to pupils having a mobile device in terms of personal safety there are also some associated risks. The School encourages parents to take responsibility for promoting the sensible use of mobile devices at home, and to discourage excessive, untimely or inappropriate use of these devices out of school.

Bradford Grammar School accepts no responsibility for risk theft, loss, damage or health effects of mobile devices. Parents and pupils should ensure that mobile devices brought into School are properly insured.

Guidance reviewed by: Miss J Watson Assistant Head Pastoral
Last guidance review date: Spring 2025
Next guidance review date: Spring 2027