

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Use of mobile phones on school site

I am writing to inform you that our mobile phone policy will be updated from **Monday 7th September**, following the introduction of new national legislation requiring all schools to operate as mobile-free environments during the school day. These changes ensure that St John's remains fully compliant with statutory guidance issued under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, and support our commitment to maintaining a calm, safe and focused learning environment for every student.

Years 7-11

For students in Years 7-11, the updated policy means that from **8.30am until 15.10**, all mobile phones and smart devices must be **switched off and not accessible** during any part of the school day. Devices must remain out of sight and unused throughout lessons, social times and movement around the site.

This represents a change to our previous approach: until now, this expectation applied fully to students in Years 7-9, while students in Years 10-11 had been permitted to use mobile phones in lessons for learning purposes. Under the new legislation, this is no longer permitted.

Sixth Form

For Sixth Form students (Years 12-13), the legislation allows schools to provide limited, controlled flexibility. Sixth Formers may only use their mobile phones in the Sixth Form common room and may use them elsewhere only when explicitly instructed to do so for learning purposes. Sixth Form students must not use their phones outside these designated areas or at any time where their use would be visible to younger pupils.

This is a significant change for our Sixth Form, and we will work closely with students to support them in adjusting to these new expectations. As the oldest students in the school, our Sixth Formers play an important role in leading by example, modelling the high standards and behaviours we expect from younger year groups.

Reasonable Adjustments

We recognise that some students may require reasonable adjustments to these expectations in line with the Equality Act 2010. For a small number of pupils, particularly those with identified SEND, medical needs or other specific circumstances, access to a mobile device may be necessary to support their wellbeing, communication or learning. Where this is the case, we will work closely with families to agree an individual plan that meets the student's needs while maintaining the integrity of our whole-school approach. These adjustments will be carefully considered, clearly documented and reviewed regularly to ensure they remain appropriate.

St John's staff

Staff expectations are also clearly defined within the new legislation. Staff will not use mobile phones during lessons or while supervising students, and devices should only be accessed in staff-only areas such as offices, workrooms or the staffroom. On rare occasions, mobile phones may be used for essential operational tasks — for example, taking registers during assemblies or managing emergency communications — but these instances will remain strictly limited.

These changes reflect both the new legal requirements and our ongoing focus on creating a positive learning climate for all year groups.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement these important changes; it makes a meaningful difference to the culture and standards we are able to uphold at St John's.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Henderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan Henderson

Principal