

6th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to provide an update following our mobile phone consultation earlier this year, which was prompted by the Department for Education's announcement prohibiting mobile phone use in schools.

Currently, Lealands High School operates a policy in which students may bring mobile phones into school but they should not be used or seen at any point during the school day. This is often referred to as a '**Never Seen, Never Heard**' mobile phone policy. While this has been effective for the most part, we still face occasions where students do not comply, either by using their phones out of sight or, on rare occasions, refusing to hand them over to staff. The use of mobile phones during the school day is disruptive to education and places an unnecessary administrative burden on our staff.

Moving into the next academic year, we intend to keep our general policy around mobile phones and they should be never seen and never heard in school. However, in order to ensure a focused, distraction-free environment, we are altering the procedures within the policy and making our expectations explicitly clear.

From **September 2026**, the following procedures will be strictly enforced:

- Students may bring a phone to school, but upon entering the **school gates**, it must be switched off and placed in their school bag.
- Phones must remain in bags at all times. They **must not** be kept in trouser pockets, coat pockets, or blazers. Students will be reminded of this at the school gates and during morning line-ups.
- These restrictions also extend to smartwatches, smart glasses, and any other personal computing devices.

If a student breaches the "Never Seen, Never Heard" rule, the following staged consequences will apply:

First offence: The phone will be confiscated and locked away. The student will be able to collect it at the end of the day and the breach of policy will be recorded on Epraise as a demerit.

Second offence: The phone will be confiscated and locked away. A parent/carers must come to the school to collect it. The breach of policy will be recorded on Epraise as a demerit. **This is a change to the current procedure.**

Third offence: The student will be **banned** from bringing a mobile phone into school for the rest of the academic year. If a phone is required for travel safety, it must be handed in at the gate every morning and collected at the end of the day. **This is a change to the current procedure.**

Refusal to hand over a phone in any of these circumstances will result in further consequences. This is something we are keen to avoid but it cannot be discounted.

Emergency Contacts & Exceptions

- **Contacting Your Child:** We kindly request your full support with this policy. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please do so **only via the school reception**. Please do not message or call your child's mobile phone directly, as this will trigger the confiscation procedures outlined above.
- **Student Emergencies:** If a student needs to contact home in an emergency, they can do so via Reception, Matron, or, in exceptional circumstances, a member of the Pastoral Team.
- **Medical Exemptions:** Exceptions will be made for diagnosed medical needs (e.g., monitoring blood glucose levels for diabetes). In these instances, the phone is permitted strictly for medical use.
- **Staff-Supervised Exceptions:** On rare occasions, a senior member of staff may ask a student to use their phone under direct supervision (e.g., to verify a contact number if we cannot reach parents in an emergency or in the case of an urgent safeguarding concern). This will only ever happen in a designated "safe zone," such as a senior staff member's office.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a focused, respectful and distraction-free learning environment for all students.

Yours sincerely,

Lealands High School