



# HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAT/JDN

19 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware from recent media coverage that the DFE has recently updated its guidance to schools about the use of mobile phones. This guidance states that “all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.”

This is a position that we have adopted for some years to reduce distractions and uphold our safeguarding responsibilities. We also believe that school being a mobile phone free environment is desirable and valuable for the emotional well-being of our students. However, we do recognise that these devices aid communication within families for children travelling to and from school. Please note that school can take no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to these items.

Please reiterate to your child that our expectation for students in Years 7-11 is that mobile phones and devices such as smart watches, earphones/headphones, laptops, tablets or e-readers should not be used, seen, or heard on the school site. Students are expected to turn off their mobile phones and devices **before they come on to the school site in the morning**. Students must store their phone and other devices in a secure location (i.e. their locker or their bag). Students should not turn mobile phones or devices on again or use them until **after they have left the site at the end of the day**. Please note that students in Years 7-11 will never be asked or expected to use mobile phones or other devices in school.

Sixth Form students can use devices such as mobile phones, laptops and ipads in the social areas of the Jo Cox Centre. Mobile phones, airpods and earphones should not be used, seen or heard in the Silent Study Area in the Jo Cox Centre, in lessons or while moving around the main school site to uphold expectations for younger students.

As of Monday 13 April 2026, if a student is found using a mobile phone or device on the school site, the following consequences will occur;

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| <b>First instance</b> | Student will be issued with a detention at lunchtime the next day.<br><br>Parents will be notified. The phone or device will be confiscated and kept at Reception until the end of the day. |
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Heckmondwike Grammar School, High Street, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, WF16 0AH

Tel: 01924 402202 | Email: [office@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:office@heckgrammar.co.uk) | [www.heckgrammar.co.uk](http://www.heckgrammar.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

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| <b>Second and any later instances</b> | Student will be issued with a detention at lunchtime the next day.<br>Parents will be notified. The phone or device will be confiscated and kept at Reception until it can be collected by a parent or carer in person. |
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We do recognise that the confiscation of the device in the second instance until a parent or carer is able to collect it in person will cause significant inconvenience to families. Please do support school in ensuring that your child understands the importance of following our expectations.

We routinely remind students about all our expectations including those around mobile phones and devices and this information will be shared with students during the week beginning 23 March 2026.

If students need to make urgent contact with home, they should consult a member of staff. If parents need to contact their child, please do so by calling Reception.

Our mobile phone policy and behaviour policy will be updated in line with these expectations. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,



Simon Taylor

Assistant Headteacher