
The NSB Trust Mobile Phone & BYOD Policy

Approved by: NSB Trust Board

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Contents

Table of Contents

Contents.....	2
1. Policy Statement and Purpose	3
2. Statutory & Regulatory Framework	4
3. Implementation Model	4
4. Roles and Responsibilities	4
5. Behaviour, Sanctions & Searching	5
6. Communication Requirements	6
7. Bringing Your Own Device (BYOD) & school owned devices	6
8. Residential and Trips	7
9. Medical and Safeguarding exemptions.....	8
10. Staff use of mobile phones and smart technology	8
11. Forgotten and lost pouches	8
12. Communication during the school day	9
13. Sixth Form routines and BYOD.....	9

Mobile Phones in Schools – Statutory Guidance (DfE, 29 June 2026)
Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE 2026)
DfE/Ofsted expectations for September 2026
Legal/operational considerations (storage, liability, enforcement)

1. Policy Statement and Purpose

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance Mobile Phones in Schools (June 2026) and forms part of the school's Behaviour Policy.

In line with Department for Education guidance requiring schools to be mobile phone-free environments, students of compulsory school age (CSA) must not have access to mobile phones, smartwatches, or other similar smart devices during the school day.

A smart device (e.g. smart watch, camera glasses etc.) is any device that can Bluetooth to a mobile phone or are internet enabled - these are prohibited from 1st September 2026.

The school is committed to creating a safe, focused and disruption-free learning environment in which students can fully engage in their education.

All Trust schools will implement NSB Trust Policy concerning access and use of Mobile Phone and Smart Technology to:

- safeguard all members of the school community
- reduce distraction, improve behaviour, and support safeguarding
- ensure all Trust schools are mobile phone-free environments by default

This policy applies to:

- Northampton School for Boys (NSB)
- Northampton School (NS)
- All students in Years 7–11
- Sixth Form aspects for students in Years 12 / 13 at NSB
- All staff, visitors, contractors
- All mobile phones, smart watches, and similar devices capable of messaging, notifications, recording, or internet access.

The NSB Trust requires that for children who are CSA:

- Mobile phones must not be accessible to students at any point during the normal school day - This includes from entry to the school site, lessons, transitions, breaktimes, and lunchtime to the exit of the school at the end of the day
- Smart watches and similar devices are prohibited - Devices capable of messaging, notifications, or recording fall under the statutory definition.
- Lockable pouches are required for any student who brings a phone to school - Phones must be locked at the start of the day and unlocked only on exit.
- BYOD devices (laptops/tablets) may be used only under the Trust's ICT Acceptable Use Policy these will apply to either decisions made for a SEND, Inclusion Need or Post-CSA Student. - DfE guidance states BYOD schemes must not include mobile phones.

For the purposes of this policy, the school extends the definition of the school day to include any period during which a student is present on the school site, including before-school clubs, revision sessions, interventions and extracurricular activities taking place before the end of the normal school day.

2. Statutory & Regulatory Framework

- Mobile Phones in Schools – Statutory Guidance (DfE, 2026) - Requires all schools to prohibit pupil access to mobile phones throughout the school day.
- Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 - Gives the guidance legal force from 29 June 2026.
- KCSIE 2026 - Reinforces mobile-phone-free expectations and expands safeguarding duties relating to online harms and AI-generated sexual imagery.
- Ofsted (from April 2026) - Inspects the effectiveness and consistency of mobile phone policy implementation.

3. Implementation Model

Students who bring a mobile phone to school must secure it in an approved school-issued lockable phone pouch immediately upon entering the school site and keep it secured until they leave the site at the end of the school day.

Lockable Pouch System

- Students lock phones in a HUSH (Trust-approved) pouch upon arrival.
- Unlocking devices are located at school exits.
- Pouches must be purchased by parents and carers via ParentPay.
- Pouches are linked to Trust unlocking devices and must be purchased through the school.
- The Trust uses pouches, not central storage.

Exceptions

Permitted only for:

- Essential medical needs requiring access to a smart device.
- Exceptional safeguarding circumstances authorised by relevant safeguarding staff.
- BYOD devices (detail below).

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Students

- Lock phones daily.
- Use BYOD devices only when permitted.
- Follow all behaviour and ICT rules.

Staff

- Enforce the policy consistently.
- Report breaches.
- Support safeguarding and filtering/monitoring checks.

Parents/Carers

- Ensure children have a pouch if bringing a phone.
- Support behaviour expectations.
- Communicate medical exceptions where needed.

Trust Leadership

- Ensure compliance with statutory guidance.
- Review policy annually.
- Provide training and monitoring.

Executive Headteacher (EH)/Headteachers (HT)/Local Academy Committee and NSB Trust Board

- Review policy annually ensuring it is in line with national guidance
- Ensure Trust Leadership train staff and managing the policy and practice consistently and fairly

5. Behaviour, Sanctions & Searching

Students of CSA must not be able to access, use, display, charge, or attempt to use a mobile phone or other smart device during the school day unless they have an authorised exemption. Any mobile phone that is not secured in an approved school-issued pouch or any other SMART device (including smart watches) unless it has authorised exemption will be treated as a prohibited item, regardless of whether the device is switched on, visible, or in use. Unauthorised pouch unlocking devices are also considered as prohibited items. These will be considered breaches and sanctioned under The NSB Trust Behaviour Policy.

Students in Year 12 and 13 who bring a mobile phone to school are not required to use a phone pouch but must turn their phone off immediately upon entering the school site and keep it out of sight and secured until they leave the site at the end of the school day. Smart watches and similar devices are prohibited and therefore banned.

Phone seen or used or heard during the school day

First Offence in the school year

- High Level Offence - Automatic Friday After School Detention
- Phone Confiscated - taken to Reception - to be collected at the end of the school day by the student
- Phone handed in at the beginning of school to Reception for a period of 3 rolling school weeks - student collects phone at the end of the school day (this time period can roll into the next academic year)
- Reception will hold records of phones confiscated through Class Charts and will inform relevant YTLs/HOYs daily
- Parental phone call from YTL/HOY

Second Offence in the school year

- High Level Offence - Automatic two days of Internal Suspension
- Phone confiscated - taken to Reception - to be collected by parents at their discretion
- Phone handed in at the beginning of school to Reception for a period of 10 rolling school weeks - student collects phone at the end of the school day
- Reception will hold records of phones confiscated through Class Charts and will inform relevant YTLs/HOYs daily
- Parental meeting with the YTL/HOY

Third Offence in the school year

- High Level Offence - External Suspension - one day
- Phone confiscated - taken to the Headteachers Office / Reception to be collected by parents at their discretion
- The student is banned from bringing a phone into school for the remainder of the academic year with no exception other than in emergency medical circumstances - if this time is less than 2 full terms the ban will continue into the new academic year for the remaining time period
- Parental meeting with the DH/AH Behaviour Lead

Searching students

DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation

'Headteachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where there is reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item'.

And

'The law states the member of staff conducting the search must be of the same sex as the pupil being searched. There must be another member of staff present as a witness to the search.'

The following applies to all schools within the Trust:

Following suspicion of a prohibited item being on any school site, (including mobile phones, smart watches or an unauthorised pouch unlocking device) staff may choose to conduct a search on a student at the school. The search will be conducted by a member of authorised staff who will be of the same sex as the student. There will also be a second staff member present during the search. Each school within the Trust will endeavour to have the staff member conducting the search and observer of the same gender but this may not always be possible. The search will be completed in a room, and the school will ensure the search is carried out in a discreet and sensitive manner. The search will be completed following the recommendations set out in the Department for Education 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' July 2022. For items that fall into the category of prohibited, banned and illegal, the school may request the Police or a Community Police Support Officer to be present.

There are several reasons for school staff to perform a search please refer to the NSB Trust Behaviour Policy for each school for fuller guidance on this. Mobile phones (unless in a school approved pouch), smart devices and smart watches and associated technology are considered banned and must not be brought into the school.

6. Communication Requirements

Each school within The NSB Trust must clearly communicate the policy to:

- Students (utilising assemblies, tutor time, Personal Development and signage)
- Parents/carers (letters, website, ParentPay)
- Staff (training, briefings)

7. Bringing Your Own Device (BYOD) & school owned devices

Purpose

To support learning through controlled use of laptops/tablets while maintaining a mobile phone free environment.

Permitted Devices

- Laptops
- Tablets
- Stylus devices

(Phones and smart watches are not permitted BYOD devices.)

Requirements

- Devices must connect only through Trust-managed filtering and monitoring systems (KCSIE 2026).
- Students must follow the ICT Acceptable Use Policy.
- Staff may restrict device use at any time.
- At school a student device is a tool for learning, not for playing games or engaging in social networking, or messaging.
- Malfunctions or technical issues are not acceptable excuses for failing to complete schoolwork. If the technology fails, students are expected to agree with their teacher as to how best to complete work via another method.
- Students can only use a BYOD or school device within lessons with the written permission from a SENDCO. It is the teacher's decision whether technology is permitted in the classroom; not all lessons will use digital technology.
- The device should be brought to school each day with sufficient charge, or a wireless/portable charging pack to ensure the device remains operational for the full school day.
- A student must not plug in a device to school sockets without prior permission.
- CSA Y7-11 - Social times (break and lunch) within the school day are technology free other than in designated areas / clubs.
- For Sixth Form, the designated area is the Sixth Form Study Centre only.

- For Years 7-11 the designated area is the Library. In the Library students will not be allowed to use headphones with a device, and the device must only be used for academic purposes e.g. not for social media, gaming, listening to music,
- It is a student's responsibility to keep a BYOD or school owned device safe from damage (a protective case is recommended).
- It is a student's responsibility to take all reasonable measures to protect the device against loss or theft. The Trust and schools' advice is that the device does not leave their possession unless it is in a locked facility.

Prohibited Use

- Messaging, social media, gaming
- Recording audio/video without permission
- Circumventing filtering/monitoring
- Using VPNs or anonymising tools

Sanctions

Breaches follow the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, Behaviour Policy -see section above on sanctions

8. Residential and Trips

Full details of the school's approach to Trips and residentials are covered within the Trips and Residential Policy. For the purposes of mobile phone and smart technology whilst on a Trip (including fixtures and performances) or Residential Experience the NSB Trust takes the following stance which in line with the latest DfE guidance.

When a student takes part in a Trip or Residential Experience the normal school day finishes and therefore limited mobile phone access is permitted as set out below:

Trips e.g. Fixtures, performance etc (on a day)

The student will:

- unlock their phone pouch before departure under supervision of the trip leader so that parents can track location during travel and be informed of return times or in emergency circumstances.
- during travel the phone must not be used for Social Media postings or messaging / calling purposes (other than informing parents of likely return times) during normal school hours (Monday – Friday Term -Time, 8.30am – 3.35pm).
- once travel is completed, the phone must be turned off and not used for any purpose during normal school hours (Monday – Friday Term -Time, 8.30am – 3.35pm).

Residentials (staying away from school overnight)

The student will:

- unlock their phone pouch before departure under supervision of the residential team so that parents can track location during travel and be informed of travel movements and return times or in emergency circumstances.
- during travel the phone must not be used for Social Media postings or messaging / calling purposes (other than informing parents of likely return times)
- for a student of CSA the residentials will include a period of time called a 'normal school day', the timings of this to be determined by the trip leader and SLT and the rules concerning a normal school day are applied.
- during a residential there will be set times considered outside a 'normal school day' where mobile phones and devices 'may be permitted' depending on the nature of the residential.

9. Medical and Safeguarding exemptions

The NSB Trust recognises that some student may require access to their mobile phones during the school day for medical reasons of safeguarding purposes. These exemptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and approval is at the discretion of Senior Leadership Team and medical staff at the school.

Students who are medically exempt from the mobile-phone ban have the option to carry a phone without using a pouch. Any misuse of a mobile phone for non-medical purposes by these students will be managed in line with the sanctions outlined in the Behaviour Policy.

10. Staff use of mobile phones and smart technology

Staff are allowed to bring their personal phones to school for their own use but the following expectations must be adhered to:

DfE Guidance 2026 'Staff should not use their own mobile phone for personal reasons in front of pupils throughout the school day. This will empower staff to better challenge pupils to meet the school expectations and effectively enforce the prohibition of mobile phones throughout the school day. There may be occasions where it is appropriate for a teacher to use a mobile phone or similar device, for instance to issue homework, issue rewards and sanctions or use multi-factor authentication.'

Phones must be kept out of sight and on silent with personal use restricted to designated non-contact times and away from students.

Devices can be utilised around school for the purposes of school based essential activities only

Staff will not take pictures or recordings of pupils on their personal phones or cameras.

The Trust will follow the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act when taking and storing photos and recordings for use in the school.

11. Forgotten and lost pouches

Students who bring a mobile phone to school but have forgotten or lost their pouch must hand their phone to Reception upon arrival. The device will be stored securely and may be collected at the end of the school day. This arrangement applies until a replacement pouch has been obtained where necessary.

It is a student's responsibility to keep their pouch and mobile phone, their BYOD or school owned technology safe and secure. The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of a Pouch and its contents or a BYOD device.

- If the Pouch and contents, a BYOD or school owned device is stolen or maliciously damaged whilst in school, a member of staff must be notified immediately. The school will support, investigate and the apply appropriate sanctions where a perpetrator is established but the school and NSB Trust cannot cover any financial loss.
- If the device is an approved BYOD Device the NSB Trust and schools within recommend that it is kept in a durable case
- The whereabouts of the Pouch and contents, a BYOD or school owned device should be always known by the student
- A Pouch and contents, a BYOD or school owned Devices should never be left unattended, in sight, or not securely locked away.

12. Communication during the school day

Where students need to contact parents or carers during the school day, or where parents or carers need to pass important information to their child, communication should be made through the school's Reception team.

13. Sixth Form routines and BYOD

This section sets out the conditions under which Sixth Form students (Years 12–13) may use personal digital devices (BYOD) within NSB Trust schools. It applies to all Sixth Form students at Northampton School for Boys and Northampton School and forms part of the Trust's overarching Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy.

Definition of BYOD for Sixth Form

For the purposes of this policy, BYOD refers to laptops, tablets, e-readers, and similar portable digital devices used for educational purposes. Mobile phones and smartwatches remain governed by the Trust's Mobile Phone and BYOD Policy and are not included within the Sixth Form BYOD permissions.

Sixth Form students may use BYOD devices only in the following circumstances:

Sixth Form Study Centre:

Devices may be used for independent study, research, coursework, revision, and other academic tasks.

During Lessons:

Devices may be used when explicitly authorised by the classroom teacher for learning activities, note-taking, research, or curriculum-related digital tasks. If using a device, students should not be typing in lessons unless this is their normal way of working under their exam arrangements.

BYOD devices must not be used:

- In corridors, communal areas, dining halls, playgrounds, or anywhere outside the Study Centre unless within a supervised lesson.
- During lessons where the teacher has not granted permission.
- For gaming, streaming, social media, messaging, or any non-educational activity.
- For recording audio, video, or images unless authorised by staff and compliant with GDPR and safeguarding requirements.
- To hotspot, tether, or circumvent school filtering/monitoring systems.

All BYOD use must comply with:

- Trust online safety expectations
- School filtering and monitoring systems
- KCSIE 2026 requirements for safe digital environments
- Prohibitions on accessing extremist, harmful, or inappropriate content
- Any attempt to bypass filtering or monitoring will be treated as a serious behaviour and safeguarding concern.

Students must:

- Keep devices secure and password-protected
- Ensure screens are not visible to others when handling sensitive information
- Avoid storing personal data belonging to other students or staff
- Use only Trust-approved platforms for submission of work

The Trust accepts no liability for loss, theft, or damage to personal devices brought onto school premises.

Misuse and Sanctions

Misuse of BYOD devices will lead to:

- Immediate withdrawal of BYOD privileges
- Behaviour sanctions as per the School Behaviour Policy.
- Possible safeguarding referral where misuse involves harmful, extremist, or inappropriate content
- Repeated misuse may result in a long-term or permanent ban on BYOD use.