HILLSIDE
HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN THE HEART
OF THE COMMUNITY

Mobile Device Policy

2026-2027

Version Number: 01

Ratified by Local Governing Body: June 2026

Next Review Date: June 2027

School Link: A Jones

Introduction:

Hillside High School accepts that parents/guardians give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety on their way to and from school. Nevertheless, the school must ensure that the use of mobile phones and other such devices by pupils does not impact negatively on standards around school.

Purpose:

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'parent' includes adults who are in a parenting role, for example, step-parents, foster-parents, adoptive parents, guardians and carers. Also, the terms 'child/pupil' and 'children/pupils' are interchangeable.

For the purpose of this policy the term 'mobile phone' includes tablets, Apple watches and any form of mobile device or portable music player.

The decision to provide a mobile phone for their children is made by parents with a full understanding and acceptance of this policy.

It is the responsibility of pupils who choose to bring mobile phones onto school premises to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.

Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the appropriate point of contact and to ensure that your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way.

Parents should not contact their children during the school day via mobile phones. Similarly, it is not acceptable for pupils to contact parents during the school day via mobile phones. The school office remains the first point of communication between school and home.

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices in School

During school hours, we do not allow pupils to use personal mobile phones, tablets, Apple watches or any form of portable music players. This is based on pupil safety and the maintenance of high standards in the classroom. However, we do understand that many pupils and their parents like children to have a mobile phone as a security measure on the way to and from school.

Nevertheless, our rules are clear:

- Mobile phones may be securely kept in a school bag but must be switched off at all times.
- Mobile phones should not be taken out during lessons, at break and lunchtime or any time during the school day.
- If a pupil is seen with a mobile phone or an electronic device, the item will be confiscated and placed safely in Pupil Support:
    i. If it is the first occasion that a pupil's phone is confiscated, it will be given back to them at the end of the school day.
    ii. On the second occasion (or more) that a pupil's phone is confiscated, it will not be given back until an adult family member or guardian comes to the school to collect it.

Rules as contained in Pupil Handbook

Pupils who bring a mobile phone onto school premises should keep it in their school bag. During lessons, where it is necessary to leave the phone elsewhere, it may be handed to a teacher. Mobile phones should not be left in unattended bags.

- **The school accepts no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on school premises, during school events or whilst attending educational visits**
- **The school accepts no responsibility for pupils who lose or have their mobile phones stolen while travelling to and from school.**

It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (e.g. by other pupils, or if stolen). Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords must not be shared

Inappropriate conduct

Any pupil who uses a mobile device to bully or intimidate any pupil or member of staff will be subject to the school's Anti-Bullying and Behaviour for Learning Policies.

Where necessary, the school will work with the police to investigate and resolve serious incidents of inappropriate conduct.

Incidents of disruption in the classroom caused by the use of mobile devices will be subject to sanctions in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Any inappropriate content found on social networking, blog or video websites will be removed via the host site and where appropriate used as evidence by the school and any relevant authorities.