

Bloxham School



Mobile Device Policy

ISI	Other, Pastoral
NMS (if applicable)	N/A
Policy Owner	MAB
Next Annual Review Date	August 2025
Website	No
Policy Last Updated	05.08.24

Overview:

Bloxham School recognises the need to educate and prepare students for the wider world in which they live and the increasing role that technology plays within that world. However, as an institution we also recognise the need for a balance between time spent in “*the digital world*” and time spent in “*the real world*”. School is a place where students must be free to learn and develop without the constant pressures created by a fear of what is being missed in the digital environment.

Research and empirical evidence is making direct links between device use and the potentially negative impacts upon our lives and well-being (including sleep deprivation, social anxiety and addiction). This evidence is also beginning to demonstrate the impacts upon individuals at a time which is a key point in adolescent brain development.

The School policy is written with the aim of helping students to develop strategies to manage their screen time, their social media interactions and game time, alongside their academic studies, personal development and peer and adult interactions.

Definition of mobile devices:

To include, but not limited to; smartphones, smart watches and tablets.

Mobile device policy:

Lower and Middle School

Students may use their mobile devices within their boarding houses during the informal part of the day i.e. outside of lessons, tutor times, games and all activities.

1st – 2nd Form

Students must leave their devices in the allocated storage area within Exham House at morning tick in. Devices can be collected as students depart at 6pm.

In Park Close devices will be used at the HsMs discretion and all will be handed in overnight.

3rd – 5th Form

Students must leave their devices in the allocated storage area within their boarding house at morning tick in. For the 3rd and 4th Form devices can be collected at early evening tick in and for the 5th Form at 3:30pm (same expectations for their usage as outlined in the Sixth Form paragraph below).

Devices will be handed in during evening prep time and will all be collected overnight. If used during prep break it is the responsibility of the student to return them back in good time for the start of second prep at 8:15pm. Failure to fulfil this requirement will result in the loss of the privilege for that student.

Sixth Form

Sixth Form students will be responsible for the appropriate use of and management of their mobile devices. However, the following principles will apply as they model behaviours for the younger students; devices must not be used within public areas of the school, such as the dining hall and queue, chapel, the library or when walking between lessons, devices will be turned off and not seen during lessons (unless express permission has been given by the teacher). Devices must not at any time disturb or disrupt the learning of others.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to make informed decisions about handing devices in during evening prep time and overnight.

Staff

Bloxham School staff are expected to model such behaviours as we expect to see from the students.

Other

Students are reminded that it is against school rules to take images, make images, or to record other students without their permission. Such offences will be dealt with in accordance with school policies.

The dining hall is a device free zone for everyone.

All students and parents are reminded that house matrons are available to pass on messages and should use the House phone number to contact school during the school day.

Overseas students. There will be occasions when an overseas student may ask their HsM for an exemption to the rules above to keep contact with home. This will be at the HsMs discretion.

Students in 3rd – 6th Form may take their devices to away sports fixtures for use during transportation only. For this purpose phones may be collected at 2nd registration on a Saturday morning or by arrangement with the HsM for mid-week away fixtures.

Students and parents are reminded that Bloxham school takes no responsibility for mobile devices brought into school, they are brought in entirely at the owner's risk and it is their responsibility to ensure that suitable insurance is in place for any loss or damage.

Sanctions:

If a student is found to be carrying a device or using it contrary to the policy, then the following procedures will be actioned:

- In the first instance the device will be confiscated and returned to the appropriate HsM for collection at the end of the day. This will be recorded via iSAMS.
- Repeat offences will initially be dealt with and managed by the HsMs but this may be escalated to Deputy Heads if appropriate.

MAB 5.8.24