



THE ORATORY

THE ORATORY SCHOOL (OS) Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Owner:	Second Master
Type of Policy:	Regulatory
Last reviewed by/date:	May 2026
Next review due:	May 2027
This version published:	May 2027
Circulation:	Staff Portal School Website Parent Portal
Linked policies	Safeguarding and Child Protection

Introduction

From April 1st the Government has prohibited the use of mobile phones in schools:

All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.

Schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

Boarding schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the teaching day. They should develop appropriate policies regarding the use of mobile phones during the rest of their pupils' time at school ... this includes facilitating arrangements so boarders can contact their parents and families in private, at a time that is suitable for both parties, considering relevant time zones for international pupils.

...This policy should include prohibiting the use of mobile phones by sixth-form students in front of younger pupils, for example limiting use to a sixth-form common room. Sixth-form students should remain subject to the school's behaviour policy and misuse of their phone should have the potential to lead to sanctions.

Policy: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

Oratory Day Pupils Years 7-11

Pupils are strongly encouraged not to bring mobile phones to school. Any pupil in year 7-11 seen using a mobile phone in any part of the school, including common rooms and boarding spaces will see their device confiscated and held for safe keeping in the school office. Confiscated phones can be collected at 6pm. Detentions will be issued to repeat offenders.

If a day pupil requires a phone due to travel to and from school it is to be turned off and kept in a bag (not in a blazer or other pockets). In order to communicate with parents regarding collections, pupils may check their phones in their boarding house common rooms after lessons have finished in the tea break 1630-1655. Phones may not be used in any other locations and may not be used in activities or prep.

Oratory Boarding Pupils Years 7-11

During the week, phones will be kept in the Housemaster's office until 6pm, as per the current arrangements. Pupils will have their phones for the entirety of free time, hand them back in for prep and then have access post-prep with staggered hand in time by year group to ensure a minimum of 45 minutes between the handing in of devices and sleep.

At weekends pupils will have access to their phones in all non-games and activity slots. The primary reason for this extended access time at the weekend is to ensure we facilitate plenty of communication with families for our full boarders.

Oratory Day Pupils Years 12-13

Pupils are able to use their phones in the 6th Form Centre and in their boarding rooms or boarding house day rooms. Phones cannot be used in boarding house common areas, school grounds or in class. If a 6th Form Pupil uses their phone outside of these specific areas it will be confiscated and held in the school office for collection at 6pm. Detentions will be given to repeat offenders.

Oratory Boarding Pupils Years 12-13

Pupils are able to use their phones in the 6th Form Centre and in their boarding rooms or boarding house day rooms. Phones cannot be used in boarding house common areas, school grounds or in class. If a 6th Form Pupil uses their phone outside of these specific areas it will be confiscated and held in the school office for collection at 6pm. Detentions will be given to repeat offenders. In addition, boarding pupils are able to keep their phones in their possession evenings and overnight but may not use them in areas where they can be observed by younger pupils.

Other Devices

The Government policy is clear that laptop devices must not be enabled to act as smart phones. Therefore, we must monitor all devices in school and sanction pupils who try to access social media apps such as Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram and WhatsApp. To enable this, pupils may only use school managed devices at The Oratory, we will no longer support other devices being brought into school. Smartwatches are also banned from school.

6th Form may bring in their own devices, however, school devices are encouraged.

Trips

Staff members leading trips will have a school mobile with them. Teachers will be able to update parents about delays and other such matters directly. Therefore, pupils will not be allowed mobile phones on school trips and sports fixtures. If a trip requires a mobile phone, such as a weekend sightseeing trip to London for boarders, phones will be handed in to teachers for the coach journey and returned to the pupils for the activity.

Medical Needs

If a pupil requires a smartphone for medical needs this will be arranged with individual Housemasters and the Health Centre on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, an alternative to a smartphone may be available from the NHS.

Charitable Giving

We will continue to offer charity doughnut sales and similar endeavours. Pupils will no longer be able to make payments using mobile phones so will need to do so with bank cards or cash.