

SGS Phone protocol Sept 2026 - Sept 2027

Blue lines

At all Steyning Grammar School sites there will be clear '**blue lines**' at all entry points. Once students pass these thresholds their phones **should not be seen or heard or they will be confiscated**. This includes before and after the school bell.

Phones should be turned off and stored safely in school bags.

Students will not be allowed to use their phones at any time, once they have crossed the blue line thresholds.

If seen with a mobile phone, students will have their phones confiscated immediately and parents/carers will be expected to collect these **following the first confiscation**.

Students who repeatedly have their phones confiscated will be issued with further sanctions.

If students need to make contact with home during the school day then they can visit their site offices.

Smart watches

If a student is seen actively communicating through a smart watch or this device is heard to be receiving incoming messages - this will be confiscated and parents/carers will be expected to collect these **following the first confiscation**.

School trips, visits, fixtures

On school day trips, visits and fixtures, phones are not expected to be seen or heard until students return to school and the student is outside the blue lines. On residential trips, phones are not allowed. They are either not taken on the trip or the leader takes them in and stores them in a secure location.

Occasionally, we may make exceptions to this rule, for example if a trip includes times where students are not under direct supervision. If this is the case, arrangements will be communicated to students and parents before the trip.

Why are mobile phones banned at SGS?

Safeguarding

We now have ample evidence that children with unrestricted access to the internet and social media are often exposed to highly inappropriate content, cyberbullying and online predators. By limiting smartphone use, we aim to create a safer environment where students can focus on their learning without these potential threats.

Mental Health

Evidence is rapidly growing that smartphone and social media use leads to negative impacts upon children's mental health and wellbeing, such as increased anxiety, depression and self harm. By reducing smartphone usage further, we hope to foster a more positive and focused learning environment while reducing the pressures on young people associated with an online presence.

Distraction

On average a teenager receives 237 notifications each day and the desire to constantly check a smartphone can easily become compulsive. Studies consistently show that excessive smartphone use has a negative impact upon academic performance. This is really important for all year groups, including yr 11 who need to focus on their learning/revision at this crucial time.



Blue Lines Policy

The use of mobile phones and earphones (including air pods) is banned from the moment you cross the blue line at the threshold until you leave the site and cross the blue line at the end of the day.

Should they be seen or heard the following will occur:

First time & every time - they will be confiscated and must be collected at the end of the school day by a parent/carer.

Mobile phones are not allowed on school trips.

