



FAQ Mobile Phones

Knowle DGE Academy has maintained a no-phone policy for many years. The latest government legislation supports our embedded policy.

In lower, middle and upper schools, if you would like your child to bring a phone to school, they must hand in their phone to staff at the start of the school day and collect it at the end of the day.

Pupils in sixth form are exempt from this change in the law and they will not be required to hand in their phone, in order to promote responsible use of mobile phones, and to set a good example to younger pupils, sixth formers will only be allowed to use their phones within Sixth Form designated areas.

The FAQs below relate to students up to and including year 11.

Will my child be able to bring their phone to school?

If you would like your child to bring a phone to school, they must hand it to the staff. A variety of options are available including lockable class boxes, lockable cabinets and a lockable pouch to store their phone during the school day.

For pupils that do not own phones, or for those that wish to leave the phone at home every day, we will expect those Parents / Carers to commit to their child not bringing their phone to school without exception.

If my child owns a non-Smart phone, will they still need to hand it in?

If your child will have any type of phone in school, they must still hand it in. This is for two main reasons. Firstly, any phone poses a temptation for students to be in constant contact with others and can result in distraction. Secondly, many non-smart phones look similar to smart phones which could make it difficult for staff to differentiate between them and create an opportunity for students to circumvent our policy.

How will things work day to day?

Schools within the Trust will determine procedures that work for their sites and context. In general, when pupils enter their school site in the mornings, they will be required to turn off their phone and hand it to staff. Pupils using a pouch will keep

their pouched phone in their bag throughout the day and will be able to unlock their pouch at the end of each day using devices located at key points in their school.

My child uses their phone to organise themselves during the school day. How will they be able to look up their timetable, take photographs of their work and see what homework they have?

Before the current prevalence of mobile phones, schools had efficient systems in place for pupils to check their timetables, hear about room changes and other practical information. Schools will put in place alternative systems and ensure pupils know about any changes in good time.

How will you deal with pupils who have a phone out in school or refuse to surrender their phone?

Pupils will be responsible for handing their phone in every morning and checks will be performed during tutor time. Any pupil found at any point on a school site with a phone that is not in a lockable pouch, will have the phone confiscated and parents will be informed.

For repeated instances or where a pupil is found to be using multiple phones or refuses to surrender their phone, further support will be given, in line with our school's engagement policy.

Will my child be able to access their phone for medical needs?

In the very small numbers of cases where there is a genuine certified health condition which requires access to technology of this nature, exceptions can be made. In these situations pupils will be issued a non-lockable pouch.

I use my child's phone to track their location to make sure I know where they are. How will I be able to do this now?

The only time you will not be able to track your child's location is when their phone is in the lockable pouch, when they are at school and there is no need to track their location.

How will I be able to pass on an urgent/important message for my child?

You should contact your child's school via their main reception / school office, who can arrange to pass on urgent messages that cannot wait until the end of the school day. Pupils will be able to turn on their phones and check for messages as they leave school, so they can receive any non-urgent messages you might have sent to them at that point.

What if my child needs to leave school early?

The school will give the student back their phone as the leave.

What will happen if I do not agree with these rules?

The Government is making it law that children must not access phones during the school day, including during break and lunchtimes. If you do not wish for your child to hand in their phone, they must leave their phone at home. If pupils have a phone in school and not in a lockable pouch or area, it will be confiscated.

Any questions please contact the school and we can help support your child's individual needs.

Knowle DGE Academy