

14th July 2026



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM

HOPE

COMMUNITY

DIGNITY

EQUALITY

DIVERSITY

Dear St. Hilda's College parents and carers

I am writing to clarify expectations regarding mobile phone use for Sixth Form students, following strengthened national guidance from the Department for Education. This communication is intended to ensure that our approach remains clear, consistent, and supportive of students' learning, wellbeing, and growing independence.

The national guidance states that schools should operate as phone-free environments throughout the school day, including lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime. This guidance is designed to remove ambiguity and to strengthen the authority of schools in setting firm and consistent boundaries around mobile phone use.

Expectations during lessons

In lessons, our expectations for college students remains unchanged. They are the same expectations as we have for students in the rest of the school. Students must not use mobile phones in any of their lessons. This means that:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the lesson;
- Mobile phones cannot and must not be used for any reason, including educational purposes, research, internet searches, calculators, or note-taking;
- Where technology is required for learning, the teacher will direct the students to use school provided laptops or computers.

Expectations when students are moving around the building

As with lower school, college students must not have their mobile phones switched on. They must not have their phones out and they must not use them.

Expectations when students using breakout areas to study.

In breakout areas, the classroom rules apply. This is because younger students also have access to the breakout areas. In these areas, college students must not have their mobile phones switched on. They must not have their phones out and they must not use them.

Headteacher
Mrs J Code
BA (Hons), NPQH, FCCT



Expectations during social time and studying in the college areas

We recognise as young adults the college students should have certain privileges and the use of devices can aid effective study. The following rules therefore, apply:

- Mobile phones may be used only in the silent study area on the first floor and the kiosk;
- Phone calls are only allowed to be made in the kiosk or outside or off site;
- College students are no longer allowed to switch on, have out, or use their mobile phones on the wooden stairs because lower school students have access to this area.

Summary of expectations for college students

- Lessons: phones are to be switched off and out of sight. They must not be used in lessons
- Mobile phones must not be used in any are of the school except in the silent study area and kiosk because lower school students do not have access to these areas

These expectations reflect both national guidance and our commitment to preparing students effectively for further education and employment. They are designed to strike a balance between encouraging independence and maintaining the structured, focused environment necessary for high levels of academic success and professionalism.

We are grateful for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. Working together means students benefit from clear and consistent messages about responsibility, behaviour, and the appropriate use of technology.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours faithfully



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