THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

School Improvement Committee

Smartphone Policy

May 2026

Review Date: March 2027

Company No. 07560175

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Policy Statement

Students are **not** permitted to bring smartphones or smart devices onto school premises at any time. This policy applies throughout the school day and on all school-related activities, including day trips and fixtures.

Rationale

This policy has been introduced in response to:

- **Safeguarding concerns** – Smartphones with cameras and internet access create risks around image-sharing, online contact, and exposure to harmful content.
- **Mental health and wellbeing** – Research increasingly links early smartphone use with anxiety, poor sleep, and reduced self-esteem among young people.
- **Distraction from learning** – Removing smartphones allows students to focus fully on their education without digital interruption.

This approach aligns with updated national guidance and a shared commitment across the Romsey Partnership of schools.

Approved Devices

Students may bring one of three approved non-smart mobile phones if they need to contact home before or after school. Approved devices do not have internet access, social media apps, or cameras. The approved models (which will be reviewed periodically) are:

1. Nokia 105 - 2nd Gen 4G
2. Oakcastle F100/F101 - 2G*
3. The Phone+ - 4G

Approved 'brick' (feature) phones must remain switched off and in a student's bag throughout the school day. If an approved 'brick' phone is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

Prohibited Items

Smartphones and smart devices (including smartwatches with internet or messaging capability) are classified as **prohibited items** under the school's Behaviour Policy.

If a student is found with a smartphone or prohibited smart device on school premises:

1. The device will be *confiscated* immediately.
2. A *sanction* will be issued in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
3. The device will only be returned once the sanction has been served.

4. Repeated breaches will result in parent meetings and escalating sanctions, including fixed-term suspension.

Exceptions

In exceptional medical circumstances (such as a medical need requiring a specific device), parents or carers should contact the school in writing to discuss alternative arrangements. Any agreed, evidenced exception, will be documented and reviewed regularly alongside medical guidance.

For residential overseas visits, smartphones will be permitted to avoid the purchase of separate cameras.

Searching and Confiscation

Staff have the authority to search students and confiscate devices in accordance with The Department for Education guidance and the school's Behaviour Policy.

Working Together

We ask all families to support this policy by:

- Ensuring students do not bring smartphones to school.
- Discussing healthy digital habits at home
- Contacting the school office if urgent messages need to reach a student during the day.

By working together, we can create a focused, safe, and supportive environment where all students can thrive.

Approved by:	Paul Urben, Chair of Trustees	**Date:** 11.05.2026
Last reviewed on:		
Next review due by:	May 2027	