

1. Policy Statement

Brampton College is committed to providing a safe, respectful and purposeful learning environment in which students can achieve their full potential. Mobile phones can support communication, travel and independent living; however, they can also cause distraction, disrupt learning and impact student wellbeing. This policy establishes clear expectations for the possession and use of mobile phones on college premises. It aligns with statutory government guidance regarding mobile phone use by compulsory school-age students while recognising the greater independence of post-16 learners.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote a focused and productive learning environment.
- Minimise disruption to teaching and learning.
- Support student wellbeing and positive social interaction.
- Meet safeguarding responsibilities.
- Provide a clear, consistent and enforceable approach to mobile phone use.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Brampton College, including:

- GCSE students of compulsory school age.
- GCSE resit students.
- A Level students.

The policy applies across all college buildings, classrooms, learning spaces and communal indoor & outdoor areas.

4. Principles

The college recognises that:

- Mobile phones are an important means of communication for students and families.
- Many students travel independently and may require access to mobile phones before and after the college day.
- Learning is most effective when students are fully engaged and free from unnecessary distractions.
- A simple and consistent approach promotes fairness and compliance.

5. General Expectations

Students must:

- Bring mobile phones onto site only at their own risk.
- Ensure phones are switched off and not placed on silent mode.
- Keep phones stored securely in their bags while on site (*G1 students will need to hand phones in – see below*).
- Refrain from using mobile phones anywhere inside college buildings unless authorised by a member of staff.
- The use of smartwatches and similar communication devices is subject to the same expectations where they provide messaging, internet or telephone functionality.

The College operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy. Before connecting a personal device to the College network, students must sign and comply with the College's Acceptable Use Agreement. Students may only access the internet through the College WiFi and must not use mobile phone hotspots, mobile data connections, VPNs, proxies or any other method designed to bypass the College's filtering and monitoring systems. Access to social media platforms is restricted through the College WiFi as part of the College's safeguarding and online safety arrangements.

6. Mobile Phone Use During the College Day

A Level Students

A Level students may use mobile phones only when **outside** college buildings or in the Main Building Common Room or Hall:

- Before lessons.
- After lessons.
- During lunchtime.
- During scheduled study periods.

Mobile phones must **not** be used inside college buildings (with the exception of the Common Room or Hall) unless specifically authorised by a member of staff for welfare purposes. Students must **not** miss lessons with the intention of going offsite to use their phones.

G1 Students

In line with government guidance regarding compulsory school-age students, GCSE students are not permitted access to mobile phones during the college day. To create consistency across the cohort, this requirement extends to GCSE resit students. The procedures are as follows:

- Mobile phones must be handed in during registration at 8.45am.
- If a student arrives late, they should go to Reception and hand their phone in as soon as they arrive.
- Phones will be stored securely by the college.
- Phones may be collected from Reception at the end of the college day.

While reasonable care will be taken, the college cannot accept liability for loss or damage to devices unless negligence can be demonstrated.

As per the government guidelines, compulsory school aged children must not see other students using their phones. Therefore the Common Room and Hall are off limits to G11 students, except for morning registration in the Hall (when A Level students will not be there).

7. Misuse of Mobile Phones

Examples of misuse include:

- Using a phone inside a college building without permission.
- Failing to hand in a phone when instructed.
- Using a phone during lessons.
- Recording, photographing or filming without permission.
- Using a device in a manner that undermines learning, safety or the wellbeing of others.

See IT Acceptable Use Policy for more examples and information

8. Sanctions

Where a student breaches this policy:

First and Subsequent Incidents: the mobile phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Repeated Breaches: the college may implement additional sanctions in accordance with the Behaviour Policy. Persistent refusal to comply may be treated as a breach of the college's expectations regarding conduct and respect.

9. Safeguarding and Emergency Contact

The college recognises that urgent situations may arise during the day. Parents and carers who need to contact a student should do so through Reception. Students who need to contact a parent, carer or external agency for an urgent matter may request supervised access to a phone through a member of staff.

10. Exceptions and Reasonable Adjustments

The college will make reasonable adjustments where a mobile device is required for:

- Medical needs.
- Accessibility requirements.
- Approved educational purposes.
- Individual risk assessments or safety plans.

Any exceptions must be authorised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, and will be allowed on a case by case basis.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

Students are responsible for:

- Following the expectations outlined in this policy.
- Handing in phones when required.
- Using mobile devices respectfully and appropriately.

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy consistently.
- Supporting students in complying with expectations.
- Reporting repeated breaches as per our behaviour policy.

Parents and Carers Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support the college's expectations regarding mobile phone use.
- Contact students through Reception when necessary.
- Discuss responsible phone use with their child.

13. Monitoring and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed regularly by senior leaders. The policy may be amended in response to legislative changes, government guidance or operational requirement.