

Policy Name: Mobile Phones	
Introduced:	June 2026 for implementation September 2026
Most recent review:	N/A
Date of next review:	June 2027
Member of staff responsible for the policy:	Beth Warren
Dissemination of policy:	Staff, Students, Parents, Website

GHES operates as a mobile-phone-free environment by default to ensure a safe and disruption-free learning space.

Aims

- Minimise disruption to teaching and learning and pastoral sessions.
- Safeguard student wellbeing.
- Promote positive social interaction.
- Ensure consistent expectations across GHES.
- To support students to REACH their potential through positive behaviours
- To prepare students to be ready to transition back to their main stream school or other educational provision

Classroom Space – Procedures & Expectations

- Phones to be on airplane mode and placed in a central location

Permitted Exceptions

- **Medical Monitoring:** Students may keep devices accessible for medical reasons – but on airplane mode.
- **Initial visits:** When a child first visits, for a classroom induction or to determine a Safe Learning Plan they may bring their phone. During these visits the use of the mobile phone will be discussed.

GHES does not want the mobile phone expectation to stop a child coming to the classroom and will identify the appropriate support and steps to work towards this.

The initial visit would determine intervention and support strategies that would enable a child to be able to adhere to our expectations when in the classroom space.

Face to Face Sessions - Procedures and Expectations

[Initial Visits, Induction Sessions, Trips, Lessons, Careers sessions or Link Tutor sessions in the home, a session in a community space]

- Phones must be on airplane mode
- Phones must remain out of reach
- Phones should not be used as part of the session unless authorised

Permitted Exceptions

- **Medical Monitoring:** Students may keep devices accessible for medical reasons – but on airplane mode
 - **When agreed as part of the session:** e.g. there are a number of applications we ask students to use to support their learning or to support them in other ways. Showbie, MOMO, Luminova are just a few examples where a student would legitimately be using the phone with the member of staff to share work or responses.
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Online Lessons

The vast majority of our teaching takes place online. We would expect most students to have a phone – for some it will be their only way of communicating and keeping in touch with their parents and others throughout the day. We know many families no longer have a landline, and many of our older students will be left at home during the day.

To support the teaching of online lessons through Adobe Connect, all students are expected to use Showbie as their online exercise book. The facility of being able to take a photo of handwritten work and sharing art work is an integral part of any lesson.

Therefore for online lessons we have to be very clear with our expectations that students should only be using their phones during a lesson for learning only.

Staff regularly discuss with students the expected mobile-phone etiquette during online lessons, which is:

- A mobile device should only be used for learning within lesson time and not for social communication
- Use your device to upload written work or artwork to Showbie.

We advise parents to support with providing a supportive, device free learning environment in the home, as far as is reasonably possible, and to promote the use of a mobile phone during lesson time for learning only e.g. their phone can be put on airplane mode if there is no expectation of uploading anything to Showbie.

Our approach to online safety and working alongside parents can be found in our Online Safety Policy.

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Teaching on the Paediatric Ward at GRH

NHS and trust guidance strongly discourages unrestricted mobile phone use in clinical spaces for the following reasons:

- Patient dignity and confidentiality
- Safeguarding of vulnerable pupils
- Clinical environment risks
- Students' health, wellbeing, and regulation



Hospital Teaching Guidance

- Follow ward-specific rules.
- Devices interfering with equipment handed to caregivers.
- Some clinical areas require phones powered down.
- Mobile phone devices should not be brought into the classroom as default. Exceptions would be for medical or other agreed reasons (such as SEND or trauma-informed)
- When teaching at the bedside there should be an expectation that the child is asked to put away their mobile device before the session begins.

Permitted Exceptions

Students who are an inpatient may need to have their mobile devices for the following reasons:

- To monitor diabetic levels and act, as appropriate
- To communicate with parents/carers/social care professionals who are not with them on the ward
- To access their main school's VLE or email account for schoolwork/homework and correspondence.

School Room Teachers, who are working on the ward, may need to use their work mobile devices for the following reasons:

- To check 'shared' GHES student details
- To contact School Room when based in ECU (Oncology) or bedside
- To respond to requests from teachers in ECU or bedside
- To use as a research tool
- To use as a 'hot spot' for internet access.
- To communicate with other members of the GHES team whilst with a child

Guidance for all teaching staff and pastoral staff

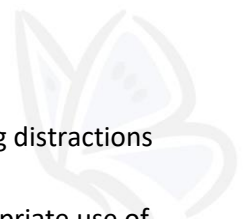
GHES staff are provided with work phones; these should be with a member of staff at all times BUT all staff should be aiming to model limited use of them. Occasionally a member of staff's personal phone will provide a more reliable signal and would be used e.g. when in the community or family home, the work phone will be needed to access information about a student via Edulink.

For taking the register in the home, staff will use their phone via Edulink. For record keeping of student work in the home a photo of the work could be taken to be uploaded to Showbie. For record keeping of forms, a photo can be taken for student files.

In the classroom it is 'best practice' to access Edulink or SIMS on a laptop, so the need to have a phone out is reduced. However within the current classroom space in Cheltenham we still require staff to have their work mobile phone readily accessible to support safeguarding situation, such as absconding.

As far as is possible all staff should aim for:

- Teaching spaces should be kept free from digital distractions as far as possible.
- Staff phones should be kept away unless required – modelling best practice of minimising distractions
- Staff should avoid using their personal phones as far as practically possible
- In accordance with our positive relational approach, we should acknowledge the inappropriate use of phones in the moment 'I can see that...' with a reminder of the expectations we have, which is when we are working with a student, we want them to be present, and we have the aims of:
 - Minimising disruption to teaching and learning and pastoral sessions.



- Safeguard student wellbeing.
- Promote positive social interaction.
- Ensure consistent expectations across GHES.
- To support students to REACH their potential through positive behaviours
- To prepare students to be ready to transition back to their mainstream school or other educational provision

Reference Documents

[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

GHES Positive Relationships policy

GHES Online Safety policy

