



9th July 2025

Dear families,

As we prepare to welcome your child to Orchard Park High School, I want to take this opportunity to outline our approach to **mobile phones and related online behaviours**. These guidelines are in place to support a disruption free learning environment as well as to promote the wellbeing of all our students.

We strongly recommend **that students do not bring smartphones to school**. If a mobile phone is necessary for travel, we ask that it be a basic, non-smart model that is only capable of calls and texts. This helps to reduce distractions, supports positive social interaction, and protects students from many of the challenges associated with smartphones. They are also less likely to be targeted by criminals on their way to and from school: **smartphones are expensive and are attractive to thieves**.

Students should not use their phones at any point from arrival until the end of the school day this includes when in clubs or on school trips. It must be put away before passing through the blue gate. A member of staff will never ask your child to use their phone in a lesson (for example). **If a phone is seen or heard during school hours for any reason, it will be confiscated**. On the first occasion, the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day and they will be issued an after school detention. If the issue occurs again, a parent or carer must come to school to collect it. Repeated misuse will result in a student being required to leave their phone at home altogether.

We want to be very clear about the boundaries of our responsibility. While we will always act to safeguard students, families **must take responsibility for managing social media use** at home. This includes following the **legal age restrictions** on digital platforms and checking their child's messages. Children **should not have their phone in their bedroom at night**. We encourage you to have healthy phone habits and to make considered choices about your child's access to the internet.

If you need to contact your child during the day, we ask that you do so via the school office. Similarly, if your child needs to contact home, they can do so through the pastoral team or reception. Using their phone to contact you can result in a sanction as outlined above.

Thank you for working with us to maintain a school culture that prioritises disruption free learning, kindness, and personal responsibility.

Ms Carly Moran, Headteacher

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What are the age restrictions on social media?



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Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Snapchat
TikTok
Kik
Ask.fm
Houseparty
Periscope
Tumblr
Reddit
Pinterest



13+

Whatsapp
YouTube
WeChat
Whisper
Yubo



(13+ means with parental consent)

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LinkedIn



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Tinder
Bumble



For more information on social media use:

[Parents guide on social media apps | Family Lives](#)

Our behaviour policy can be found here:

[School Policies & Documents](#)

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