



GRAVENEY SCHOOL

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you of our mobile phones policy and the approach we will be taking this year when considering exemption requests.

Graveney School is a mobile phone-free school. We do not allow mobile phones to be brought to school by pupils in Years 7-11 and do not allow their use anywhere on the school site, at any time. Following the Children's School and Wellbeing Act (July 2026), all schools now have to be phone free. **This includes not just mobile phones (and in particular smartphones) but smart watches and any internet-enabled device.** We strongly believe that a phone-free environment is a much better one. Mobile devices in schools can disrupt teaching and distract from learning. We are also all too aware of the role they have in the instigation and potential escalation of online behaviour that is unsafe or upsetting to pupils. Our pupils collectively benefit from everyone adhering to this rule, which has been in place at Graveney for many years.

We remain of the view that the school is a safer, more productive space when phone-free and that our pupils benefit from being away from their devices for the whole school day. This includes, wherever possible, their time immediately before and after school. Modern smartphones/watches have the capacity to distract children on their journeys to school and can make them more vulnerable as a result. They also mean children are able to access the internet whilst unsupervised, increasing the risk of them being exposed to content that is unsuitable or worrying. There is also the concern of the number of mobile phones stolen in London and the risk of this happening to your child. Having a phone puts them at greater risk. We always alert parents/carers if their child does not arrive at school and pupils can always use the phone in their year office to call you if needed. Similarly, should there be an urgent matter that you need to communicate with your child, you can phone the school and they will pass on your message. In light of these systems, we believe that the vast majority of pupils do not need to bring their mobile phone into school.

However, in exceptional cases, such as long distances from school to school, other special home circumstances or medical reasons, you as parents/carers can apply for your child to have permission to bring in a mobile phone to school. In these circumstances your child is required to drop off their phone in the year office before AM registration (by 8:20) and collect it at the end of the day (before attending any clubs etc).

If you think that your child needs to bring a phone to school, **please complete the Google Form linked to below** by **Friday 18th September, 2026**. We will consider your request and write to you with a decision as soon as possible. If we do grant permission to your child to bring their phone for the journey to and from school **it MUST be a brick phone** which can only be used to make and receive telephone calls and text messages. It must not have a camera and/or internet access. This will allow them to be safe on their journey and in contact with you without the additional risks smartphones can pose.

[Mobile Phone Hand In Permission Request Form 2026](#)

Best wishes,



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