

CONCORD COLLEGE
SUMMER SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale

While mobile phones are acknowledged as useful and important tools for communication in the modern world – and a vital link for our students to contact home – a growing body of research shows that continuous reliance on phones throughout the day causes distraction, increases anxiety, reduces face-to-face interaction and is damaging to the educational experience. As a result, the following document sets out our expectations as to mobile phone use during the school day at Concord Summer School.

Basic expectations

“Mobile”, or “mobile phone” includes the use of smart watches or smart glasses to mirror the function of a phone and internet enabled tablets.

Students are not expected to be using their mobiles or to have them obviously on their person between 08:00 and the end of the enrichment programme at 17:00, unless they have been given clear permission by their teacher in a classroom for a specific purpose, or with one exception below.

Phones may be used during **morning break time only**.

Notes and FAQs

During the hours specified above mobile phone use is not permitted in classrooms, labs, corridors, the Morris Building and theatre (including before and during assembly), and the dining room. The only exceptions in these areas are when a member of staff has given clear permission to get phones out, or in case of emergency.

Phones may not be used as calculators or translators without the permission of the class teacher.

Phones may not be used during boarding meetings without the clear permission of a member of staff.

Junior students at summer school are those aged 11 and 12 years. To further protect their wellbeing and support rest, junior students will be required to hand in their mobile phones and other internet enabled devices at room check each night. They will have them returned to them the following morning.

Senior students at summer are those aged 13 – 16 years. Very occasionally, in cases of repeated misuse or significant concern for the overuse of technology that is detrimental to a

student's wellbeing, it may be necessary to confiscate a mobile device from a boarding student overnight or for a longer period of time. It is hoped that this would only be required in extremely rare circumstances

Sanctions

Phones being used without permission between 08:00 and the end of the enrichment programme at 17:00 will be confiscated by a member of staff and can be collected from the Summer School Office once enrichment activities have finished.

Appendix: use of mobile telephones, headphones and mobile apps on other devices

The following guidelines explain the college's policy on the possession and use of mobile telephones in college. It is accepted that students should have a mobile telephone with them in college to enable contact with home outside normal college hours. However, the telephone should not be allowed to disrupt the working routine.

If a parent wishes their son or daughter to have a mobile telephone in college, then it will be understood that the student agrees to abide by the following code of conduct:

- The telephone is the responsibility of the student concerned and all reasonable measures must be taken to ensure its security.
- Concord College cannot accept any responsibility for loss, theft or damage to a student's mobile telephone but will investigate any reported loss to try to assist with the return of the telephone to the owner.
- Mobiles should be handed in to a teacher during games or activities, together with any other valuables. They must not be left unattended in public areas or changing rooms.
- Mobiles must not be visible or audible during lesson times, tutor sessions or assemblies.
- Mobile 'phones should not cause any disruption to the academic day: see the previous page for further information.
- Students are expected to socialise with other members of the community over mealtimes in the dining room and not use their mobile 'phone.
- Students must not send inappropriate text or picture messages or make nuisance calls to any members of the college community.
- Students must not make audio recordings or use camera or video functions to take photographs or video clips in college/ during lessons or on college outings/fixtures without permission from a member of staff.
- Students should not cause disturbance to others when using their mobile telephone.
- Continuing breaches of the mobile usage code may result in a requirement for the parents of the student concerned to prevent their son or daughter having a mobile telephone while on campus.

Headphones, earbuds etc.:

Students should NOT have ears covered with headphones (or with ear buds inserted). Students could be compromising their safety in terms of not being able to hear vehicles when travelling on or off campus. In addition, students should not shut themselves off from other members of the community when moving about the campus or in more social areas of the College – such as the dining room.

An exception to the rule forbidding the covering of both ears would be when students are studying in prep, their bedrooms or the library. (However, consideration should still be made for others so that they do not overhear what is being listened to.)

Adapted from Main Term Concord College Mobile Phones in the Learning Environment Policy
Section 4.14

Document Owner	Summer School
Reviewed in	June 2025
Approved by/date	JK/ KW 25/06/2025
Next review	June 2026
Publication	Portal, Staff Handbook,Website