

St Thomas More RC College

Summary: Advice on the school's ban on Smart Phones, Non- Approved Mobile Phones or Smart Watches and other electronic devices including headphones in School.

Smartphone-Free School: Page 2

Decision: Smartphones, Smart Watches, headphones and other internet-enabled devices are not permitted on the school site.

Why? The school believes removing Smart Phones from the school environment best supports learning, concentration, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy social interaction.

School Approved Basic Non-Smart Mobile Phones Are Allowed: Page 3

Decision: Students may bring a school approved non-smart mobile phone for travel to and from school.

Why? This allows communication with parents while avoiding the risks associated with internet-enabled devices. GPS trackers are also permitted.

Alternative Systems Considered But Rejected: Page 4

Decision: The school will not use phone lockers, pouches, daily collection systems or similar arrangements.

Why? These approaches still allow Smart Phones to be brought onto site, create significant additional costs and administrative burdens, and do not achieve the school's aim of a genuinely Smart Phone-free environment.

Reasonable Adjustments: Page 6

Decision: Exceptions may be made for medical, accessibility or SEND-related needs.

Why? The school recognises that some pupils require Smart technology to access education or manage health conditions and the Headteacher will consider these cases individually and based on clear evidence.

Four-Week Confiscation For Smart Phones And Certain Other Devices Page 6

Decision: Smart Phones and other prohibited Smart Devices found in school will normally be confiscated for four weeks.

Why? The sanction acts as a strong deterrent and has proven effective in reducing the number of students bringing Smart Phones into school. The focus is on preventing possession of banned devices to ensure they are not in use or a distraction on school site.

Confiscations Reasonable And Proportionate: Page 7

Decision: A confiscation will apply whether or not the Smart Phone is being used.

Why? The issue is the presence of the device on site. A switched-off Smart Phone can still be accessed and could have been used earlier or later in the school day.

Searches For Mobile Phones: Page 10

Decision: The school will maintain the policy through confiscation and, where necessary, searches.

Why? Schools have legal powers to prohibit, search for and confiscate items banned by school rules, provided actions are reasonable and proportionate.

Overall Principle

The policy is designed around a single objective: **to create a Smart Phone-free environment that promotes educational achievement, student wellbeing, safety and positive behaviour, while allowing limited evidence-based exceptions at the discretion of the Headteacher where individual needs require them.**

Full: Advice on the school's ban on Smart Phones, Non- Approved Mobile Phones or Smart Watches and other electronic devices including headphones in School.

Smartphone Free School

Why has the school banned Smart devices (Smart Phones) and certain other electronic devices from the school site?

- In June 2026 the Government passed legislation to make its guidance on Mobile Phones in school statutory, meaning schools **must** follow the guidance, the guidance states the following:
"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only."
Therefore, by law schools should be mobile phone free environments from September 2026, the DFE guidance gives schools discretion on how they achieve this.
- The school and Headteacher feel that Smart Devices with access to cameras, social media and the internet, have some very limited benefits, but overall Smart Devices are very harmful to students and to the school environment due to their addictive nature, potential for distraction and the unsuitable content that can potentially be accessed on an internet linked Smart Device. This view is increasingly supported by policy makers and a growing number of parents and carers and is further supported by the following research and articles:

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Policy%20Documents/September%202026/Evidence%20For%20A%20Smart%20Phone%20Free%20School.pdf>

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/publication/disconnect/>

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/smartphone-free-schools-evidence>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0927537116300136>

<https://news.utexas.edu/2015/05/18/mobile-phone-bans-lead-to-rise-in-student-test-scores/>

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2014-52302-001#>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32790667/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/26/put-learners-first-unesco-calls-for-global-ban-on-smartphones-in-schools>

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4735240

- The school is clear that the benefits of banning Smart Devices and other such devices covered under the policy clearly outweigh the drawbacks of a complete ban. The school is further hopeful that in a large and significant number of cases that the school's approach will actually change behaviour and support families where they choose to delay the purchase of a Smart Phone until their child turns 16, so that young people are protected from the potential harms of Smart Phones and social media both inside and outside of school, while they are at a younger age when they are most vulnerable and at greatest risk.
- The school believes that Smart Phones and social media may cause the following harms particularly in younger people:
 - Mental Health Issues including Anxiety, Depression, self-harm and suicidal thoughts

- Cyber Bullying
- Addiction to phone and dopamine loops (constant checking of phone or social media)
- Addictive Algorithms built into software
- Sleep Disruption
- Sedentary Lifestyle
- Lack of Awareness of Traffic on journeys to and from school
- Distraction and disruption to learning
- Leaving lessons frequently to check phones (addiction)
- Access to unsafe or inappropriate content, explicit, violent and extreme content
- Reduction in attention span and the time young people can devote to other activities such as schoolwork, homework, hobbies.
- Young people are at greater risk of being a victim of grooming through Smart Phone platforms.

School Approved Basic Non-Smart Mobile Phones Are Allowed

Has the school banned all mobile phones and tracking devices from the school site?

- **NO, the school has not banned all mobile phones from the school site**

The following information is clearly detailed in the school behaviour policy:

The College however recognises that in some situations parents may wish their child to carry a mobile phone as a safety precaution for their journey to and from college. If this is the case the school has approved a small list of mobile phones without Smart features that students can bring into school inside their bag and this non smart approved phone must remain switched off at all times during the college day including break time, lunch time and at the beginning and the end of the college day when the pupil is on college premises.

Pupils may use their approved mobile phone at the end of the day once outside the outer green gates of the school.

List of approved Mobile Phones.

The phone must be one of the following types: Nokia 105, HMD 105, Nokia 106 or other phone as may be approved by school from time to time.

Some of these phones can be bought very cheaply with phones available at the time of writing for £13 including a Pay as you Go Sim Card from Argos.

- **Parent Concern: GPS Tracking**

We understand that parents/carers may want to track the location of their child on the way to and from school or at other times. If you would like to track the location of your child in the absence of a Smart Phone then students are permitted to keep a GPS Tracker in their school bag or blazer for this purpose.

Is the Smart Phones and Smart Device ban supported by Government Guidance?

- The school firmly believes that the banning of Smart Devices and Smart Phones is both the right thing to do and is supported by Government Guidance.

- Government Guidance: Mobile phones in schools July 2026
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>
The Department for Education (DfE) expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

There are a number of ways in which schools can ensure that they are mobile phone-free, and it is for headteachers to decide how best to achieve this within their own unique contexts

Government Case Studies also note that some schools that are taking a similar approach <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/creating-a-mobile-phone-free-environment-school-case-studies>

Alternative Systems Were Considered But Rejected

Why hasn't the school chosen to use lockers or pouches or a hand in point, to store Smart Phones during the school day or used a no-see or no hear policy?

- The school considered many options in order to achieve a Smart Phone Free Environment but due to practical, financial, safeguarding, and professional judgment it was decided that alternatives were not appropriate
- Fundamentally, the school believes that we are doing the right thing preventing Smart Phones and other Smart Devices onto the school site due to the potential harm they can cause, both in school and out of school. Harm from mobile phones can also be caused on the journey to and from school, by preventing Smart Phones being brought on to the school site we believe that we are making a strong statement about the school's view on Smart Phones.

We believe the school stance strongly supports an increasing number of parents/carers who believe that being Smart Phone free for as long as possible has significant benefits.

This is the clear view of the school, a policy that actively permits the bringing of Smart Phones into school does not align with the school's view on Smart Phones.

- No See, No Hear Policy

The school did consider this option and discounted it.

The school previously operated a "No See No Hear Policy" in relation to Smart Phones and Smart Watches however it is clear that the operation of this policy in the school's view does not meet the aims of the Government Guidance in our specific circumstances. Under this policy Students would often have a Smart Phone on silent mode out of sight in a pocket, the phone could then still distract students through vibration when it received notifications, this was without the knowledge of the teacher.

Students would also have unapproved access to their phones in areas that were out of sight of staff such as in the bathroom. It is noticeable that since the implementation of the new policy on the banning of Smart Phones that the number of times students are leaving class has reduced significantly, either to use the bathroom or for another reason, it appears that previously students may have been exiting class specifically to use their Smart Phones out of sight rather than leaving the class for a legitimate reason. The reduction to interruptions in lessons is further improving teaching and learning and staff report that students are more engaged and less distracted in class without the presence of Smart Phones to distract or occupy their thoughts, this is also backed up by the research which is included above.

It is noted that under a "No See, No Hear Policy" students would still have access to their Smart Phones if they wished to remove them from their bags in an area of school that was out of sight of staff, e.g. bathrooms.

If the school had adopted this policy instead, in **this hypothetical situation transgressions involving the use or sight of a mobile phone would still require a significant disincentive.**

- Lockers

The school did consider this as an option and discounted it

The school does not have space on corridors for student lockers and the cost would be excessive which would take away from the money that the school can spend on providing each student's education.

40 personal belonging lockers cost approximately £1000 and the school would need at least 20 units at a total cost of £20,000. There would then be an ongoing cost for maintenance and any replacement of lost keys/damaged lockers.

Regardless the use of lockers would facilitate the possession of Smart Devices and would be contrary to the schools' view on Smart Devices.

It is also noted that students could potentially make a decision not to store their smart phone in their locker during the school day so they still had access to it, If the school had adopted this policy instead, **in this hypothetical situation transgressions involving the use or sight of a mobile phone outside of a locker would still require a significant disincentive.**

The school is aware that other schools that have used lockers for storage of Smart Phones have still had issues with mobile phone usage during the school day, for example students leaving class for the purpose of retrieving work or an exercise book from a locker only to then access their phone.

- Locking Pouches

The school did consider this as an option and discounted it

The school would need to buy locking pouches for each student and purchase the associated infrastructure so that students could lock the magnetic pouches on arrival at school.

A company that the school researched provides a lockable mobile phone pouch service but the pouches cost around £25 per pouch including locking infrastructure. With 800 students the school would need to spend £20,000 on the scheme while also budgeting for ongoing subscription costs and the replacement of broken pouches or infrastructure.

School would also need to employ and deploy staff to supervise students at locking stations to ensure that Smart Devices were being placed securely in each pouch and locked ahead of the school day, these additional duties to be staffed would add further ongoing additional costs to the school.

The school also considered that in many schools where pouches were being used the schools continued to have issues with mobile phone use as some students would secure broken/dummy phones in the locker/pouch retaining their own phone for use. It is also now widely known that many of the lockable pouches can be overridden with a strong magnet and **in this hypothetical situation transgressions involving the use or sight of a mobile phone outside of a pouch would still require a significant disincentive.**

Regardless the use of pouches would facilitate the possession of Smart Devices and would be contrary to the schools' view on Smart Devices.

- Daily collection of phones at the start of the day by staff for redistribution at the end of the day.

The school did consider this as an option and discounted it

The implications of allowing students to hand in phones in the morning did not appear to be feasible as there could be close to 800 students wishing to hand in and collect phones at the beginning and end of the school day, there is no long-term efficient way to facilitate this procedure.

We considered that with many iPhones and similar devices costing close to £800 each the school could be responsible for phones with a total value running into the tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of pounds each day.

800 phones x £800 is £640,000 although the school accepts this figure would be the absolute maximum.

The policy would also require staffing which would add additional costs to the school and students are never in the same classroom at the start and the end of the day are rarely in the same class, so

facilitating efficient collection at the end of the day would be extremely challenging as with 800 students a central collection point would not be feasible on a daily basis.

This policy would also implicitly rely on students handing in their phone each day and students may deliberately not hand in their phone so they can continue to access it during the school day, **in this hypothetical situation transgressions involving the use or sight of a mobile phone not handed in would still require a significant disincentive.**

Regardless the use of collection and distribution would facilitate the possession of Smart Devices and would be contrary to the schools' view on Smart Devices.

Reasonable Adjustments

Is this a blanket policy?

- NO, the policy on Smart Devices is not a blanket policy, the school recognises the need to make reasonable adjustments if appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

The School Behaviour Policy States:

Exceptions and reasonable adjustments

In a tiny number of specific cases, it may be necessary to amend this policy for students with particular medical needs who might need controlled or supervised access to a Smart Device, if your child has a medical need that is managed using a Smart Device then please contact the SENCO or Head of Year to discuss arrangements that may be required, any requests will be submitted to the Headteacher. Where necessary the Headteacher will grant necessary amendments and reasonable adjustments to the policy in necessary and exceptional circumstances.

The school would gather the evidence in relation to a request for a reasonable adjustment and then the Headteacher would make a judgement if a reasonable adjustment to the policy could be granted or if the school could provide alternative equipment to meet the student's needs.

- For example, when a medical plan dictates, the school would allow a student with diabetes to bring a Smart Device to school if they used it to monitor their blood sugar levels, however the school would still make sure that the student only used it for that purpose in line with the described need in the medical plan.
- Another example might be a student whose EHCP or SEND profile dictates that they need to use a Smart Device as an accessibility aid (such as a text reader) to access their school work, the school would in these cases make an effort to provide a school bought Smart Device with restricted applications so that the student could continue to have access to their studies in school.

Four-Week Confiscation For Smart Phones And Certain Other Devices

The school policy states that Smart Phones and other devices will be confiscated for four-weeks if they are found in school, is this allowed?

- Schools have strong legal framework for the confiscation of items that are prohibited and also items that are banned under the school rules, the behaviour policy makes it very clear that Smart Phones and certain other electronic devices are banned items.

Under Government Legislation Section 91 and Section 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, teachers and authorised staff have the power:

“to regulate the conduct of pupils”,

and

*“to impose disciplinary penalties, **including the power to confiscate items.**”*

Section 94(3) confirms that staff may confiscate and retain a pupil's property where doing so is lawful and reasonable.

- **Government Statutory guidance Mobile phones in schools 29 June 2026**

Provides further detail in this matter and states:

*Schools can use a range of sanctions for breaching the mobile phone policy appropriate to their context, including **confiscation** and detentions.*

Schools should feel confident to use their power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty where their policy is clearly breached, for instance where a mobile phone is used by a pupil or is heard ringing in a pupil's bag. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. ***Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case.***

Headteachers are backed by DfE to confiscate mobile phones and similar devices, if they consider it proportionate, for whatever length of time they deem proportionate. In considering whether a confiscation is a proportionate penalty, schools should consider what ***disciplinary outcome the confiscation is intended to achieve*** and whether there are other ways to achieve the same outcome, as well as the pupil's individual circumstances such as age and SEND, as explained in the behaviour in schools guidance. ***Confiscation as a sanction can be an effective deterrent for a specific pupil or a general deterrent for all pupils at the school.***

Confiscations Reasonable And Proportionate

Is the four-week confiscation period proportionate when a Smart Phone is found in school?

- The statutory guidance is clear that the school must decide if the confiscation period is proportionate to achieve the aim of the confiscation period. The school believes the confiscation period of four weeks is proportionate if any student Smart Phone is found in school for the following reasons:
 - **The aim of the policy and therefore confiscation** is for there to be **no Smart Phones/Smart Devices etc on the school site** (apart from the tiny number of students with reasonable exceptions)
The school believes it is the right outcome for students not to have access to or possession of Smart Phones in school.
 - The confiscation period therefore must be a significant disincentive to students who would bring a Smart Device onto the school site and the disincentive and consistency of the confiscation must be clear to other students in school. The confiscation is a sanction and a deterrent, it is primarily preventative so that students don't bring Smart Phones onto the school site. The school is confident that if the policy is correctly applied it prevents students access to Smart Phones on the school site.
 - The school did consider a shorter confiscation period, we are aware some parents/carers would prefer a Smart Phone to be returned to the student or a parent/carer on the same day. The school considers that a shorter confiscation period would not meet the aims of the policy or the aims of the act of confiscation.
When the school previously returned Smart Phones to parents/carers/students on the same day it was the case that frequently the student would return to school the following day in

possession of the same phone and then subsequently have the same phone confiscated on a number of subsequent occasions, short confiscation periods in our circumstance were ineffective at changing the behaviour that the School Policy and Government legislation is targeting.

- The four-week confiscation period is now significantly changing the behaviour and choices of students in school, on the few occasions when it has been necessary to check (with reasonable grounds) if students are in possession of a Smart Phone or device overwhelmingly students do not have Smart Devices in their possession and are therefore not bringing them to school. It follows then that the confiscation period is delivering its aims, and the aims of the policy in creating a Smart Phone free school environment by default.
- The school concluded that a sliding scale of confiscation periods would not meet the aims of its policy. For example: if the policy began with a short period of confiscation of perhaps one or two days increasing up to four weeks for repeated incidents.
Smart Phones are highly desirable for a large number of students, so it was felt a very significant number of students would bring a Smart Device to school and accept the risk of their Smart Phone being confiscated for one or two days if it was found in their possession.
This would mean that a large number of students would potentially bring Smart Phones and devices to school accepting the risk of an initial short confiscation period with the promise of a quick return. This situation would not meet the aims of the policy to be a Smart Phone free site as the short confiscation period would not be a sufficient disincentive to bringing a Smart Phone to school.
At the moment we have the situation where only a tiny number of students have been found with a Smart Phone, with the majority clearly not bringing a Smart Phone into school. With a short confiscation period we would shift to a much larger number of students bringing Smart Phones into school, until caught for a first offence, this could mean hundreds of students in possession of Smart Devices each school day, even though the school has specifically banned them under the school rules.
The confiscation period is therefore proportionate and is serving the aims of discouraging students from being in possession and therefore having access to a Smart Phone or Smart Device on the school site.
- The school considers the confiscation period to be proportionate as it is in line with other schools that have a similar approved only brick phone policy, with their policies publicly available online such as:

The Fulham Boys School: 6 Week Confiscation

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PMD3MVn9WwU63z2eK41HUDgX0R8BmIDQ/view>

Oaklands School: 4 Week Confiscation

<https://www.oaklands.towerhamlets.sch.uk/Phone-Confiscation/>

Queens Park Community School Academy Trust: Confiscated Full half term

<https://cms-site-files.reactfiles.co.uk/queensparkcs/uploads/document/MobilePhonePolicy-2026.pdf?t=1784128328>

King Solomon Academy: 4 Week Confiscation

<https://kingsolomonacademy.org/parents/mobile-phone-expectations>

These are four examples of four different schools but there are a number of others. St Thomas More RC College recognises that this indicates that the school is acting reasonably as other schools and Headteacher's have come to the same conclusion about the duration of the confiscation period that is required to successfully meet the aims of a similar policy. A substantial confiscation period for Smart Phones is not unusual in schools and St Thomas More RC College have made the judgement on the school's policy and confiscation period based on our circumstances and context.

- The school policy was published and clearly shared with parents/carers and families in advance, the aims of the policy were clearly stated and the confiscation period of four weeks explained for any Smart Phone found in the possession of a student, it is therefore proportionate and reasonable to enforce the confiscation period communicated if a student has possession of a Smart Phone.
- It is essential to the effective running of the policy that the policy is applied consistently if students have exceptions that are unreasonable or a phone is returned earlier than the communicated confiscation period, it will appear to parents/carers/students that the policy is not being applied with appropriate rigour and may encourage further students to bring Smart Devices into school with the hope of securing an early return if they are then confiscated, this would introduce more Smart Devices into school which would be contrary to the policy. A consistent application of the stated confiscation period is therefore proportionate to the aims of the policy.

- The school was asked to consider an earlier return than four weeks during the confiscation period for Smart Phones that were switched off and not in use at the time of discovery. The premise of the request was that a switched off phone was not a distraction at the time so it was not proportionate to treat the confiscation period the same as the confiscation of a Smart Phone that was being used or was found switched on.

The school considered this request but disagrees on a shorter confiscation period for the following reasons:

The aim of the policy is to prevent **Smart Phones being on site** during the school day.

A Smart Phone found on site in possession of a student is a direct breach of the school policy, the policy does not distinguish between Smart Phones that are on or off.

While a Smart Phone found maybe switched off at the time of confiscation it that does not mean that a student has not used it already during the school day or maybe tempted to use it later during the day, perhaps in a location out of view of staff.

A confiscation period of four weeks is proportionate in the case of a switched off Smart Phone/Device as the aim of the policy is to ensure that Smart Phones are not on the school site so students don't have access to them during the school day. It is clear even if a student is in possession of a switched off Smart Phone, they still have access to the device and the possibility of using it. Without a significant deterrent for switched off phones, students are likely to continue to bring Smart Phones to school in large numbers keeping them switched off for the majority of the day but with the possibility, temptation and distraction of switching them on again at different points in the day when they believe they have the opportunity.

The school does also use escalated sanctions in the school behaviour policy which includes suspension and permanent exclusion for unacceptable or dangerous use of Smart Devices in school, so there are escalated sanctions above the four-week confiscation period for use of Smart Phones, if necessary.

- It is also relevant that requests for a shorter confiscation period for switched off phones have most frequently been received from parents/carers where their son/daughter has already had

their phone confiscated. In these tiny number of cases, it appears that the potential confiscation period of four weeks was actually not long enough to discourage the possession of a Smart Phone in School for this small number of students.

Therefore, it does not support the argument for a shorter confiscation period.

- The confiscation period is also proportionate and reasonable as the school has carefully considered reasonable alternatives to bringing a Smart Device to school for journeys to and from school namely the use of a Nokia Brick Type Non-Smart Phone and a GPS tracking device should parents/carers wish.
- The school also considered that if it had employed another strategy to deliver a Smart Phone Free Environment such as, “not seen, not heard”, pouches, lockers or collection of phones that based on the school’s circumstances and context it would still have needed to use a significant confiscation period such as four weeks to ensure compliance with the alternative strategy,

Searches for Mobile Phones

Can the school search students for a Smart Phone or other electronic device?

- Yes, the school has significant and appropriate legal powers to search for certain items, the school follows Government Guidance and Legislation.

Government Guidance on Searching Students
Searching, Screening and Confiscation: July 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62d1643e8fa8f50bfbe55c/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

Extract from Page 6

Headteachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have **reasonable grounds** to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item or **any other item that the school rules identify as an item which may be searched for.**

Our school behaviour policy is clear that Smart Phones are banned on the school site and are identified as an item that we can search for:

Extract from Pages 17 and 18 of the School Behaviour Policy

Searching and Screening pupils

The college has the power to search pupils for items that are banned under the college rules and prohibited items under DFE guidance these items include. When the following items are found as banned and prohibited items, they would be confiscated regardless of the circumstances in which they were discovered.

- knives and weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
- to commit an offence, or
- to cause personal injury to,

or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).

- tobacco and cigarette papers, vapes, electronic cigarettes or items associated with vaping
- fireworks; and
- pornographic images.

Items banned under the school rules including

Smart Phones, Non-Approved Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, Headphones, cameras and other electronic devices.

Approved Mobile phones are not to be used on school site so where a member of staff suspects an approved mobile phone has been used by a student it may be searched for and confiscated.

Items that have been or could be used to disrupt teaching and learning or the effective running of the school such as laser pens, toys and novelties including water balloons etc

Chewing gum or “energy” drinks or Fizzy drinks

Extract on page 24 of the School Behaviour Policy

Searching and Confiscation

In line with DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation, a member of staff may be required to search a student’s bag or belongings for a mobile phone or another prohibited item.

- If, during a search, a school-approved phone is found switched off and is not relevant to an investigation, it will not be confiscated.
- If a school-approved phone is found switched on, seen, heard, or contains evidence relevant to an investigation, it will be confiscated.
- All non-school-approved phones (including Smart Phones, Smart Devices and headphones) found during a search will be confiscated automatically, even if the purpose of the search was for a different item.