

# “Away for the Day” Phone Policy



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# LJFS “Away for the Day” Mobile Phone Policy

*Updated February 2026*

## 1. Purpose of This Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a calm, safe, and focused learning environment, consistent with updated Department for Education (DfE) guidance which states:

**“All schools should be mobile phone free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.”**  
**-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.**

The DfE further requires that schools:

**“Prohibit the use of mobile phones... throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.”**

Ofsted will now examine how well schools communicate and enforce these expectations:

Inspectors will **“evaluate whether staff and pupils understand the expectations around mobile phones”** and whether the policy is applied **consistently throughout the school day, including breaktimes and lunchtime.**

This policy supports the safeguarding, wellbeing, and academic success of all pupils.

## 2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All LJFS pupils from arrival until departure from the school site
- All indoor and outdoor areas of the school
- **The Zone, which will no longer be considered an exception area for mobile phone use at lunchtime**
- All school related activities during the school day (e.g., transitions, clubs, corridors, playgrounds) -related activities during the school day (e.g., transitions, clubs, corridors, playgrounds)

### 3. Policy Statement: “Away for the Day”

LJFS adopts a strict “**Away for the Day**” approach to mobile phone use. Under this policy:

#### Pupils must:

- Switch phones **off** before entering the school site
- Keep phones **out of sight** for the entire school day
- Not use phones at any time, including:
  - Before school once on site
  - Breaktime
  - Lunchtime
  - Passing periods
  - After-school detention or on-site extracurricular activities
- **Not use phones in The Zone at lunchtime** (this previous exception is now withdrawn)

#### Phones may only be used:

- Under direct staff instruction in an emergency
- If required for an approved medical need (e.g., diabetes monitoring) and documented in advance

### 4. Rationale for the Policy

#### 4.1 Government Expectations

The DfE is “**determined that all schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day, including breaktimes and lunchtimes.**”

#### 4.2 Safeguarding

The DfE highlights that phones can:

- Pose **safeguarding risks**
- Contribute to **mental health issues**
- Increase **bullying**, recording/sharing issues, and peer pressure

#### 4.3 Learning and Behaviour

Research shows that mobile phones:

- Disrupt attention
- Lower academic engagement
- Reduce social interaction
- Encourage off task behaviour  
-task behaviour

These risks underpin the government's strengthened guidance.

#### 4.4 School Security and Local Risk

LJFS is increasingly aware of:

- External influences linked to **gang affiliation**
- Risks of **unauthorised filming** on site
- Concerns regarding **site safety and monitoring**

Restricting mobile phones helps protect both pupils and the school community.

#### 5. Compliance Expectations

Pupils are expected to comply with this policy **without exception** unless formally agreed for medical or safeguarding reasons.

If a pupil needs to contact home, they must do so via the **school office**, and parents wishing to contact children must do the same.

#### 6. Escalating Sanctions

Sanctions are applied when a pupil:

- Is seen with a phone
- Is heard using a phone
- Uses a phone in **The Zone**, where use is now prohibited
- Refuses to hand over a phone when asked

##### Stage 1 – First Incident

- Phone confiscated by staff immediately
- Phone stored securely in reception
- Returned to pupil at the end of the day
- Logged on the behaviour system

- Reminder of policy expectations

### **Stage 2 – Second Incident**

- Phone confiscated
- Parent/Carer required to collect the phone
- Lunchtime detention issued
- Meeting with Head of Year to reinforce expectations

### **Stage 3 – Third Incident**

- Phone confiscated
- Parent collection only
- After-school detention issued
- Behaviour contract introduced

### **Stage 4 – Repeated or Serious Breaches**

- Internal exclusion or removal from circulation
- Parental meeting with SLT
- Possible ban on bringing a phone onto the school site at all

### **Stage 5 – Refusal to Hand Over Phone**

- Automatic internal exclusion
- Phone confiscated by senior staff
- Parent meeting required before return of device

## **7. Additional Measures Under Consideration**

To support compliance, LJFS is considering adopting **magnetic locking phone wallets**, widely used in other secondary schools.

Though not yet implemented, this measure would ensure consistent enforcement and reduce staff workload.

## **8. Equality, SEND and Safeguarding Adjustments**

LJFS recognises duties under the Equality Act 2010. Adjustments will be made when:

- A phone is required for a **documented medical need**
- A pupil has a verified **SEND related requirement-related requirement**
- There is a specific safeguarding arrangement

These must be formally agreed and reviewed regularly.

## **9. Communication of the Policy**

The policy will be:

- Shared with pupils in assemblies and tutor time
- Sent to parents via letter and email
- Included in the behaviour policy
- Reinforced routinely by all staff