

Example Products

The following are illustrative examples of the kinds of products available; they are not endorsements, and we would always encourage families to compare current options and prices for themselves. One practical point: UK networks have now switched off 3G, and 2G is being phased out, so any basic phone should be a **4G** model to remain usable.

Type	Example	Indicative cost
Basic phone	HMD 105 4G (formerly the Nokia 105); a simple calls-and-texts handset with no internet	Around £20 to £30
Basic phone (flip)	Nokia / HMD 2660 Flip; a clamshell calls-and-texts phone with larger buttons	Around £50 to £70
Premium minimalist phone	Punkt MP02 or the Light Phone; calls and texts with a deliberately distraction-free design	Higher; typically over £100
Bluetooth item tracker	Apple AirTag, Samsung Galaxy SmartTag, Tile or Chipolo; approximate location for a bag or keys	Around £20 to £35 each
Dedicated GPS tracker	A wearable or bag-mounted GPS tracker with its own SIM and a parent app for live location	Device plus a small monthly subscription

Indicative costs are provided as a rough guide only and will vary by retailer and over time.

Frequently asked questions

The questions below cover what parents most often ask. If your question is not answered here, please contact the school office and we will be glad to help.

Your question	Our answer
Has a decision already been made?	No. This is the start of our consultation, not the end of it. We are sharing our thinking openly because your views matter, and we want to hear them before anything is finalised.
What exactly is changing?	We are proposing that students in Years 7 to 11 do not bring a smartphone or smartwatch into school at all. This is a step on from our current rule, under which phones must be switched off and not seen or heard while on the school site.
How will I contact my child during the day?	You will always be able to reach your child through the school office, and we will pass on urgent messages quickly. For everyday

Your question	Our answer
	messages, we ask families to plan for these to be sent before and after school.
Does my child need a phone to travel to school?	No. Travel does not require a smartphone. Bus and rail passes are available as physical cards; for example, under-18s in our area can use a TfL Zip Oyster photocard, which is carried in a wallet or bag. A basic phone or tracker can be added for contact and reassurance if you wish.
Can my child bring a basic phone, then?	Yes, if you feel your child needs to be reachable when travelling. A basic phone makes calls and sends texts but has no internet, apps or social media. It is for the journey only: it must be switched off before your child enters school and turned on again as they leave, so that no phone is seen, heard or used while on site.
What happens if a smartphone is brought into school?	It would be confiscated and held securely, then returned to a parent or carer rather than to the student, so that you are always informed. Repeated breaches would be treated seriously, in line with our behaviour policy.
What about medical needs or anxiety?	Any child who needs a device for a medical reason, such as glucose monitoring, will have an individual arrangement; the law allows for this. If your child relies on a phone to feel safe, we will work with you and our pastoral team on a gradual, supported approach.
Is this just a school rule, or is it part of something bigger?	It reflects the national direction. Updated government guidance (January 2026) says schools should be phone-free by default, and from 29 June 2026 this has the force of law. The government has also announced a ban on social media for under-16s, expected in Spring 2027. Our proposal brings TQA in line with this and protects students now.

If you would like to read more, the following organisations offer accurate, independent advice and support for families.

Find out more

Smartphone Free Childhood. Advice, support and practical alternatives to smartphones.
smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

NSPCC: keeping children safe online. Practical advice on social media, gaming and online safety.
nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

GOV.UK: Mobile phones in schools. The government's guidance for schools.
gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools