Mobile Phone Detection Scanners
2026/27

Approved/reviewed by	
Charlie Peake	
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Mobile Phone Detection Scanners

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Centre Name: Winterbourne Academy
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Key staff involved in exam contingency planning:

Role	Name(s)
Head of Centre	Jenny Cartwright
Senior Leaders	Charlie Peake
Exam Officer/s	Julia Dunn / Alison Rayner
Safeguarding	Ellen Tomkies



Mobile Phone Detection Scanners

Mobile phone detection scanners in UK exam centres are intended to deter and detect unauthorised metal objects — mainly mobile phones — and will be used proportionately as part of existing exam security arrangements.

Purpose and Scope

Scanners have been provided by the **National Association of Examinations Officers (NAEO)** in partnership with **The Exams Office**. It is designed to:

- Detect mobile phones and other unauthorised metal objects.
- Supplement, not replace, existing centre security procedures.
- Reduce opportunities for candidates to conceal prohibited items.

Intended Use

- Winterbourne Academy may use a scanner when candidates leave and re-enter the exam room (e.g. for the toilet).
- Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a candidate is carrying an unauthorised metal object.
- Winterbourne Academy will not routinely scan all candidates on entry, as this may delay the exam start.
- Use of scanners will be **proportionate, practical** and integrated into the centre's existing exam procedures.

Safeguarding Requirements

Winterbourne Academy will ensure:

- Invigilators are trained in safeguarding and follow centre procedures.
- **No physical contact** with candidates will take place during scanning (scanning takes place roughly 12 inches away from the body. Scanning will take place outside of arms and pockets).
- Scanning will take place with two members of staff present and will be in full view of CCTV.
- Vulnerable candidates will be treated sensitively; personal space and professional boundaries will be respected.

Evidence and Follow-Up

- The scanner **does not identify a specific item** detected and is not standalone evidence of malpractice.
- If a candidate refuses to allow scanning to take place, this will be considered suspected malpractice and may be reported to the relevant exam body.
- If an alert occurs, the invigilator will notify the Exam Team and a member of Senior Leadership Team will be informed.

- In the event of an alert, Winterbourne Academy must meet JCQ and awarding organisation requirements to determine the cause and take appropriate action.

Communication

Winterbourne Academy will:

- Inform candidates and parents/carers that a scanner may be used.
- Direct any questions or objections to the **Head of Centre** or senior leadership

In summary:

The mobile phone detection scanner is a supplementary security tool, not a universal entry check, and must be applied in line with centre policy, safeguarding rules, and examination governance requirements