



School Gateway App - Parent FAQ's version 4 26.3.13

Why do I want School Gateway?

It will save your school money which they can better spend on educating your child.

School Gateway allows your school to send you messages instantly just like text messages – only much cheaper. The more people who download School Gateway, the more money your school saves.

Do I have to pay for School Gateway?

No, it is completely free to download and to use.

How do I get the App?

It's easy, simply follow these 3 steps:

Step 1 Search the App Store or Google Play for 'School Gateway',  Install the app and open it

Step 2 Press the "New User" button and enter your email and mobile number (the one that you have told your school) – your PIN number will then be texted to your phone

Step 3 Enter your pin

Step 4 That's it! Now your school will save money on every message they send you.

What will you use my mobile phone number and e-mail address for?

We only use the phone number and e-mail address that you provide to match you to your school record and to send you your PIN.

Will School Gateway work on any smart phone?

School Gateway is available on Android (2.3/Gingerbread or better) and Apple (iPhone 3GS or better, iPod Touch 3 or better, iPad)

Can I install School Gateway on more than 1 device?

Yes. But you can only log in to one device at a time. When you log in on a second device you will be logged out on the first.

I've forgotten my PIN

No problem. Select the 'Forgotten PIN' button on the login screen of the app and you will be sent another PIN by text message immediately.

Can I change my PIN?

Yes. Go to www.schoolgateway.com to change your PIN (using the same e-mail address and PIN as you use to log in to the app)

How do I change my email address on my School Gateway account?

You must use the same e-mail address as you have registered with your school. Speak to your school if you want to change the email address you have registered with them. Once they've done that, you'll be prompted to log in again with your new email address and the PIN number you had previously.

What if I want to go back to receiving texts?

Log out on the app through 'Settings'. Sign back into the app when you're ready to start receiving app messages and saving the school money on text credits.

I have children at more than one school. Can I get messages for both children on School Gateway?

Ask your schools if they are using School Gateway. School Gateway will automatically link to all your children at different schools as long as they are using School Gateway. You only need to log in once. You must have the same e-mail address and mobile number registered at all schools.

How long will messages stay on my phone?

You will see the last 3 months messages on any device you log in to.

Can I delete messages from my phone?

No – this is a complete record of all messages that you have sent or received from the school.

How quickly will I get replies to any messages I send back to the school?

Messages will be directed back to the school office in the same way as you sending a text message.

Is School Gateway secure?

School Gateway encrypts all data stored on the phone and encrypts all communication between your device and the school.

We always recommend that you have a lock on your phone to prevent access to text messages, e-mails and all of your apps – including School Gateway. If your phone is lost or stolen, you should contact your mobile phone provider to block all access to the phone. Then go to www.schoolgateway.com and “forgotten PIN” to reset your PIN and prevent access to the app.

FAQ for Parents re Messaging



How will the emails get to me and what will they look like?

The emails will arrive in your inbox at your email address just like any other email and will have the name of your child's school in the 'From' box.

Will I get any advertising or SPAM?

No, the contact details are not shared with anyone except the administrator in your child's school. You will only receive messages from Schoolcomms that have been sent by your school.

What if I change my email address or mobile phone number?

Your school uses your details from their database. Please contact the school directly and inform them of any changes to your contact details.

Can I reply to emails or texts?

For emails, click on the 'Reply' button and send your message. Alternatively your email from school may give a specific address to reply to in the body of the message. For text messages click on reply and send your message. Some schools may have this function switched off. You may wish to save the text reply number in your mobile phone contacts list. You will only be charged your normal text message rate or it may be included in your free bundle

NB: you can only reply to the school from the email address or mobile number that is linked to the school. This helps prevent spam and nuisance messages.

Will I get a message for each of my children?

If the message is identical, then duplicates will be removed and you will only get one copy to any one email address or phone number. If the message is personalised, and contains the name of your child, you will get one for each of your children concerned.

PAYMENTS

You can now make online payments to school via credit or debit card and bank transfer

You will be able to make online payments via the School Gateway smartphone app or website. You will also be able to view school meal balances and top them up at any time (please note that the catering server shuts down at 5.30pm, so any catering payments made in the evening will not show on the App balance until the morning).

School will notify you by text or email when new items such as school trips or tickets for events are available for payment on School Gateway. You will also be able to give online consent, where required, for your child to take part in activities. Aside from saving the school time and money on administration, School Gateway will also make it easier for parents to pay any time 24-7 and reduce the amount of cash being carried by children on school premises.

You can use Payment on the APP to register and use a debit or credit card. To be able to use a bank transfer, you first need to log onto the web version of School Gateway and select bank transfer when going through the checkout. Once your details have been stored, you will be able to use bank transfer on your APP.