



Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy – FAQs

<p>How is the mobile phone policy changing?</p>	<p>The current policy states that if a student brings their mobile phone to school, it is switched off and kept out of sight. This will change to the mobile phone being switched off, placed in a Focus Pouch that is then closed and kept in their school bag. The new policy takes effect on Wednesday 2nd September 2026.</p>
<p>How do we know this will have a positive impact?</p>	<p>Research has found that smartphones can distract even when they are not being actively used: the mere presence of a student’s own phone can reduce available cognitive capacity, because part of the mind is still occupied by the possibility of checking it. There is also evidence from English schools that banning mobile phones was associated with improved GCSE outcomes, with the strongest gains for lower-attaining students.</p>
<p>When will students be given a Focus pouch?</p>	<p>All students in Years 7-11 will receive their Focus pouch, which they will sign for. Students must bring their pouch to school every day from this date.</p>
<p>What if students need to contact a parent during the day? What if school needs to contact parents/carers?</p>	<p>As is our current policy, students should go to the Student Reception to contact home, and parents should phone Main Reception. We have very clear procedures in place for when a student is unwell, as assessed by our First Aid team. Parents/carers will be contacted by our First Aid team.</p>
<p>What if my child has a medical need that requires their mobile phone?</p>	<p>Please contact the school on hub@, and in agreed cases your child will be issued with a Velcro pouch to enable them access when they require their mobile phone.</p>
<p>My child needs their mobile phone to support their mental health; will they be allowed access to their device?</p>	<p>Evidence does not support phone access during the school day as an effective support strategy. Where a student has a wellbeing need, we will identify appropriate support through school systems. In some cases, mobile phones exacerbate challenges faced by young people face.</p>
<p>Where will the unlocking stations be?</p>	<p>There will be unlocking stations in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lockable boxes on the walls of every classroom. - Reception and Attendance offices - Mobile unlocking devices will be used on school trips
<p>If my child leaves school late due to clubs, revision sessions or detention; how will they unlock their pouch?</p>	<p>At the end of a club or a detention, the member of staff will have a mobile magnet to unlock pouches.</p>
<p>What happens if my child arrives in school in the morning and their pouch is locked?</p>	<p>The student will need to unlock their pouch in their morning tutor room – the unlocker will be available at this point every day.</p>
<p>What happens if a student forgets their pouch?</p>	<p>If a student leaves their pouch at home, they will be required to hand their phone in. If the pouch is damaged or lost, parents/carers will be charged for a replacement at an approximate cost of £30.</p>



How will staff know phones are in the pouches?	During morning tutor time, students will place their pouch on the desk with their phone inside and locked for staff to check each morning. If a student arrives late to school, Attendance/late gate staff will check the student pouches before students enter school site. Spot checks will be carried out by SLT.
What sanction will be incurred if a mobile phone is found on school site outside of a pouch?	The sanction that we put in place for students found with their phone outside of a pouch will be a Level 4, which will incur a suspension from school.
How will after school trips work? E.g. sports fixtures.	Mobile phones will be in pouches on school trips, unless there is a circumstance when they are required. We would expect staff to use their professional judgement on trips and we will supply a pouch unlocking device as part of all trip packs.
Will parents have to replace a lost pouch? Will parents have to replace a pouch that has been damaged intentionally?	Yes. Replacement pouches will be charged at a cost of approx. £30 per pouch.
If they cannot use their phone, how can students see their timetable during the school day?	We provide students with a small timetable and replacement timetables can be collected from reception.
Will all classes have working clocks as a lot of students use their phones to tell the time?	Yes.
What about staff use of phones?	We will encourage staff to follow the same mobile phone-free policy around the school, wherever possible. Pastoral staff do use their phones to communicate with one another in some situations.
What happens if there is a critical incident during the school day?	Students will be directed to leave school site and will be able to use the magnets as they leave. School will contact parents/carers.
Will cover and/or supply teaching staff follow the procedure?	SLT and Year Leads are always made aware when there is a cover teacher for a morning tutor group and will prioritise visiting these tutor groups. As the phones are locked away during the day, there should be no instances of a cover teacher needing to intervene.
What about smart watches and other devices?	Smart watches with connectivity must be switched off and placed in the pouch. Smart watches without direct cellular connectivity are permitted, however earbuds/headphones, or other internet enabled devices are not permitted at all during the school day.
What happens if they leave a pouch at home?	Students will have their phone taken by their tutor and they will take it to reception. To be logged on CC. The third time this happens their phone will be held at reception until an adult comes to school to collect it.
What times does these rules apply?	Phones should be kept completely out of sight from 08:00 until they are placed in pouches during tutor time. Pouches will be unlocked when students are about to leave site at the end of the day. Phones should remain out of sight until they have left the school buildings.