



3 July 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to inform you of an important update to our mobile phone policy from September, following recent government guidance and as part of our ongoing work to ensure a calm, focused, distraction free and safe learning environment for all students.

As a school, we have historically operated a “see it, hear it, take it” approach to mobile phones. Whilst this system has supported us in successfully managing mobile phone use, we are now required to take a stronger approach to mobile phone use in line with statutory DfE guidance - [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mobile-phones-in-schools) whereby “All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.”

From September 2026, we will therefore be introducing a new mobile phone policy based around the use of lockable phone pouches [Hush Pouch | UK's Leading Lockable Phone Pouches](#). This means that while students may still bring a mobile phone to school, phones will not be accessible during the school day.

To support a smooth transition to this new system, we carried out a trial with Year 9 students. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive to quote, “I have been less distracted” and parents feel their “child has become less distracted and more focused.”

Why are we making this change?

[DfE guidance](#) is clear: it expects a ban on mobile phones in school as a default. Government guidance and a growing body of educational research show that mobile phone use in schools has a significant negative impact on:

- student focus and learning
- behaviour and low-level disruption
- social interaction and wellbeing
- creating safeguarding concerns

Students accessing phones during the school day, even briefly, can disrupt learning not only for themselves but for others. We therefore have a responsibility and duty of care to reduce this impact while also being mindful of the practical needs of families.



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Our approach: working with parents

As parents ourselves, we fully understand that many students need access to a phone before and after school, particularly for safety, travel, and communication, and especially during the darker winter months. For this reason, we believe that a total outright ban on phones being brought into school would be problematic and, for some families, simply not workable.

Our aim is to offer a solution that works for parents, students, and the school in the form of a lockable phone pouch.

Your options

There will be two clear options:

Option 1: Opt into the phone pouch system

- Students may bring a phone to school.
- On arrival, phones must be placed into a secure phone pouch, which remains locked throughout the school day.
- Phones can be accessed again only once students leave the school site.
- The cost of the pouch is £16. This is now available via MCAS – under ‘products’, ‘uniform.’

This system is already used successfully in many schools and allows students to retain their phones safely while ensuring they are not accessible during the school day. The lifespan and warranty of the phone pouches is 5 years.

Option 2: Opt out of the system (no phone in school)

- Parents may choose for their child not to bring a phone into school
- This choice will require agreement and adherence to the policy.
- If a student is found with a phone in school after opting out, this will be treated as a serious breach of the school behaviour policy.

Sanctions for breaches

In line with statutory guidance and law, mobile phone sanctions will be more stringent than our current arrangements:

- Any phone found will be confiscated immediately.
- The phone will either:
 - need to be collected by a parent at the next available opportunity, or
 - be retained by the school for a minimum of five school days.
- Repeated breaches may result in escalated consequences, including suspension.
- Persistent refusal to comply could ultimately lead to permanent exclusion, as this would constitute a serious and ongoing breach of school policy in line with government expectations.



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We recognise this sounds firm, but clarity and consistency are essential if the system is to work fairly for all students.

Action required now

We ask all Y7-Y11 parents/carers to consider which option they intend to choose. Please complete the MS Form [Whole School Mobile Phone Pouch](#) by **Friday 10th July** to indicate whether you are opting in or opting out of your child bringing a phone to school next academic year.

If you are opting in, we strongly advise paying for the pouch as soon as possible through MCAS. This will help us to confirm numbers and ensure sufficient stock is available in readiness for the new academic year. We recognise that families are managing many financial pressures at present, and we appreciate your support as we implement this change. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school on office@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Sixth Form students are expected to model exemplary behaviour. They may use mobile phones only within the Sixth Form Study Café. Outside these circumstances, Sixth Form students are expected to follow the same gate-to-gate expectations as all other students.

Students failing to comply may be issued with a temporary phone pouch and required to present this daily to their form tutor until the monitoring period ends.

Working together

Our intention is not to punish students or create unnecessary barriers for families. This revised approach is designed to:

- protect learning time
- reduce distraction and conflict
- support student wellbeing
- allow parents reassurance that phones are safe and accessible when genuinely needed before and after school
- meet DfE statutory guidance

We strongly believe that this balanced approach is preferable to an outright ban and reflects feedback we know many parents and students share.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to do the very best for our students.

God bless

Mr P McCahill
Headteacher



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