

Phone Free School - Frequently Asked Questions

Will this affect all students?

In September, all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be issued with a phone pouch. Year 13 students will not be issued with a secure pouch.

What if I need to contact my child during the school day?

We want students to remain fully engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the main school office on 0151 235 1200. We will pass on messages or make any necessary arrangements.

What if there is a school emergency?

In the event of a school emergency, students will always be directed to safety first, following established emergency procedures. We will communicate with parents and carers using our usual channels.

Will my child's phone be safe?

Yes. Students keep their phone with them at all times inside their secure pouch.

What if a phone pouch is damaged or a student is caught using their phone?

The phone and/or pouch will be confiscated and parents/carers contacted. A sanction will be issued in line with school policy. Replacement cost is £10.50 per pouch.

What happens if a student forgets to unlock their pouch?

They can return to school until 4pm or wait until the next day.

How quick is unlocking?

Less than a second per student with staff support.

Why introduce this now?

It ensures consistency and removes distraction.

What if a student tries to bypass the system?

Sanctions will apply.

Are there exceptions?

Medical exceptions apply where required.

What if a student says they do not have a phone?

Checks may be carried out and appropriate sanctions applied where necessary.

How will students contact parents/carers if they need to leave school early due to illness or personal reasons?

Students should go to their Student Services in the first instance. The Year Team will assess the situation and contact home if needed. This process remains unchanged.

What is stopping students from going to an unlocking station during break or lunch?

Unlocking stations located within the school site will be secured in locked cabinets during the school day and are only accessible when supervised by staff.

My child has a 5-minute pass to leave school early - how will their phone be managed?

Students leaving school early for authorised reasons will be able to have their pouch unlocked by staff at the appropriate time before departure. Where necessary, staff will support access to ensure safe and timely exit from site. Staff at Main Office and Reception will be issued with handheld unlocking devices.

After school clubs

Unlocking is still available after activities.