

Madeley School

Mobile Phone Pouch System

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the school introducing mobile phone pouches?

Our aim is to create the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing and safeguarding. Reducing access to phones during the school day improves concentration, behaviour, social interaction and mental wellbeing.

Does this apply to all mobile phones?

Yes. The policy applies to all mobile phones and similar communication devices brought onto the school site.

Does my child have to bring a phone to school?

No. However, if a phone is brought onto the school site, it must be secured in the school's approved pouch and remain locked throughout the school day.

What if my child brings a phone but forgets their pouch?

A temporary pouch will be issued for that day. Repeated failure to bring a pouch will result in sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

What if my child forgets both their phone and their pouch?

If no phone is brought to school, students should still present their pouch as part of their expected daily equipment so staff can confirm compliance.

When will students unlock their pouches?

Students will unlock their pouches at designated unlocking stations as they leave the school site at the end of the day.

What happens if my child forgets to unlock their pouch?

Reception will have an unlocking device available should a student leave school without unlocking their pouch.

Can staff unlock pouches during the day?

No, except in authorised circumstances. Only designated staff will have access to unlocking devices for exceptional situations.

What if I need to contact my child urgently?

Parents should contact Main Reception. Staff will ensure urgent messages are passed on.

What if my child needs to contact me during the day?

Students should speak to a member of staff or attend Reception. The school will facilitate communication where necessary.

My child has a medical condition that requires access to a phone. What happens?

Where appropriate, individual arrangements will be agreed in writing by the Principal and SENDCO and managed discreetly.

How will students complete learning activities that previously involved phones?

Learning will not be disadvantaged. Students have access to school iPads and appropriate ICT resources, with alternative equipment available where required.

What happens if my child loses or damages their pouch?

Each student will be issued with one pouch by the school. Replacement pouches resulting from loss or deliberate damage will be chargeable via Arbor.

What happens if my child refuses to use the pouch?

Failure to comply will result in appropriate sanctions, including confiscation, detention, RESET placement, parental contact and, where appropriate, more serious consequences.

What if my child carries a second phone or attempts to bypass the system?

This will be treated as a deliberate attempt to circumvent a whole-school safeguarding and behaviour system and may result in suspension.

What happens if the pouch is tampered with or deliberately damaged?

Deliberate damage or tampering will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter and replacement costs may be charged.

What if my child needs to leave school early?

Reception has an unlocking station for students who leave school during the day.

What happens if my child stays after school for a club or sports fixture?

Unlocking stations will remain available at the end of the activity.

What about educational visits and residential trips?

Expectations will be communicated in advance. Day visits will generally require phones to remain in pouches, while residential or after-school visits may have bespoke arrangements.

Is this policy about punishment?

No. It is about creating a calmer, safer and more focused learning environment where every child can thrive.