



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL
Aspiring & Achieving Together

8 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Introduction of secure mobile phone lockers

We will be making The Westleigh School a phone-free space to improve teaching, safeguarding and learning using a secure lockable phone locker system. This is in line with the latest Department for Education guidelines which make clear schools must be phone free. We have informed the students via assemblies in the w/c 01 June 2026 in order to get them ready for the introduction of the system.

These systems have been implemented in thousands of schools across many countries to facilitate an engaged and safer learning environment. A number of local schools to us have successfully implemented the same systems and we are confident the secure lockable phone lockers will have a positive impact here as well.

We recognise that mobile phones can be a fantastic tool, however, learning, safeguarding and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

We plan to use a phone locker which will be in every form room. Every student will place their phone in a secure locker when they arrive at school. The locker will remain secured until 2.50pm every day when the students will return to their form room and will be handed their phone back. This is a significant change and one which I know all parents and carers will support us with.

As a result of this the school day will change slightly.

Registration - 8.30-8.50
Period 1 – 8.50 – 9.50
Period 2 – 9.50 – 10.50
Break -10.50 – 11.10
Period 3 – 11.10-12.10
Period 4 – 12.10 – 13.10
Lunch – 13.10 – 13.50
Period 5 – 13.50 – 14.50
Form Time - 14.50-15.00

A recent survey of over 900 schools measured the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- 86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness

Attached to this letter are a range of anticipated 'Frequently Asked Questions', which we hope will answer most of the questions that you may have at this point.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support as we implement this change.

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We are currently planning to launch the phone lockers on the 1st July 2026. The changes above will take effect from this date.

We will communicate closer to the time further details.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Bramwell
Executive Headteacher

Phone lockers

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this only apply to smart phones?

The policy applies to all types of mobile phones.

What happens if my child doesn't bring their phone to school?

If your child does not bring their phone to school, there is no issue. They will simply not need to use a locker that day.

What happens if my child forgets to place their phone in the locker?

Students will be reminded in form time that their phone needs to be placed in the locker. This is after being asked to place it in the locker when arriving. If they forget it will be confiscated.

When will my child get their phone back?

Students will collect their phones from the lockers during form time at 2:50pm before they leave at 3pm.

What if my child forgets to collect their phone?

Students will need to collect their phone at 2.50pm from their form room. If a student forgets to collect their phone, they should return to their form room as soon as possible or speak to a member of staff for assistance. The phone locker will be secured at the end of the day of their phone is in the locker and they can collect it the following day.

Will lockers be supervised?

Yes, lockers are located in form rooms and access will be supervised by staff at all times of the day. The lockers will be locked.



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What will be the outcome if my child breaches the phone policy?

The phone will be confiscated and parents/carers will need to come and collect the phone from school. A full sanction document will be sent out closer to the launch.

Some children require access to their phones for medical reasons during the school day (e.g. diabetic monitoring). What happens then?

Any required exceptions (e.g. for medical reasons) will be agreed in writing with the SENCo and Deputy Headteacher.

What do I do if I need to contact my child?

As should happen now, parents/carers should contact Main Reception.

What happens if my child needs to leave school early?

Students will be able to collect their phone from their form room locker before leaving, with staff support if needed.

What happens if my child stays late for an extra-curricular activity?

Students will be given their phone back in form time and they will then be able to keep it on their person for the extra-curricular activity.

What happens on trips and visits with phones?

Expectations about mobile phone use will be made clear in advance of the trip. In general, during the school day phones will remain in lockers. For visits after school or residential trips, specific arrangements will be communicated.

What happens if my child arrives late?

Any students who are late will hand their phone into the pupil office. The phone will then have to be collected from the pupil office at 3pm.

What happens if my child has a detention at the end of the day?

Form tutors will take the phone of any students on a detention to the detention room at the end of the day where the student will collect at the end of the detention.