



Faringdon Community College

Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Effective From: June 2026

Policy Review Date: June 2027

1. Policy Overview

This policy sets out our expectations regarding student mobile phone use during the school day. In line with Department for Education guidance and our commitment to safeguarding and learning, students will **no longer be permitted to use mobile phones at any point while on school premises.**

To support this, we are implementing **Secure Lockable Phone Pouches** for every student.

2. Objectives of this Policy

- Eliminate distraction from learning caused by mobile phones
- Promote positive behaviour, engagement, and wellbeing
- Prevent misuse of mobile devices, including bullying, filming, upskirting, and academic dishonesty
- Create a safer school environment and reduce safeguarding risks
- Reinforce a calm and focused school culture through consistent rules

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students during the school day (including breaktimes and transition periods)
- All devices capable of communication (phones, smartwatches, earbuds, etc.)
- All areas of the school site and all off-site, school-organised activities

4. Secure Lockable Phone Pouches – How the System Works

- Each student will be issued a **personally assigned signal-blocking pouch**
- Students must bring their pouch to school **every day**
- **On entrance to the site and at the ‘locking stations’,** phones are to be **placed inside and locked** in the pouch under staff supervision
- **If a student is late arriving to school they will have their phone locked away at reception where there will be a ‘locking station’**
- The pouch remains on the student’s person but **cannot be opened until the end of the school day**
- As students exit site they will **unlock pouches using the ‘unlocking stations’**
- If a student leaves school early, the pouch will be unlocked by **reception staff**
- If a pouch is forgotten, a **temporary pouch** will be issued, and usage monitored

5. Expectations of Students

- Bring your pouch every day and use it without exception
- Keep your pouch and phone secure and undamaged
- Follow all staff instructions regarding pouch use
- Do not bring or use any item intended to bypass the system (e.g. second phone, magnets, smartwatches)

- Do not damage or deface the pouch – this is treated as deliberate misconduct

6. Expectations of Staff

- **Enforce pouch use at all times**
- Conduct **spot checks** during the day if misuse is suspected
- **Assist students with unlocking their pouches at the ‘unlocking stations’ situated at site exit points** if you are on duty
- **Report damage, missing pouches or misuse** via epraise
- Staff are to keep ‘unlocking equipment’ for the phone pouches secure and inaccessible to students, if they are on duty

7. Expectations of Parents and Carers

- Ensure your child brings their pouch to school each day
- Reinforce the message that **phones must not be used during the school day**
- Accept that any damage to a pouch will be chargeable
- Use the **school student services as the point of contact** in emergencies – students are not contactable during the day

8. Breaches of Policy – Sanctions

Offence	Description / Example	Suggested Sanction
Possession of a Detacher	Being found in possession of any device used to unlock pouches, including unauthorised detachers or improvised tools.	- 1 day of Reflect room - Permanent confiscation of the detacher - Parent/carer informed
Possession of an Un-Pouched Mobile Device	Student found in possession of a phone that is not locked in a pouch at any time during the school day.	- Confiscation of the phone - Phone only returned to parent/carer, who must attend school and sign to confirm they have addressed the issue with their child - 1 day of Reflect room
Damaging, Destroying or Tampering with a Pouch	Includes intentionally damaging, cutting, forcing open, or otherwise vandalising a pouch to access the phone.	- 2 days of Reflect room - Confiscation of the mobile phone for a minimum of one week - Parent/carer meeting required
Placing Incorrect Items in the Pouch	Deliberately placing another object (e.g. calculator or dummy phone) in the pouch to give the appearance that the phone is secured.	- Confiscation of the phone - Phone only returned to parent/carer following a signed agreement - 1 day of Reflect room
Possession of an Unlocked Pouch	Found with a pouch that has been unlocked but still contains an accessible phone during the school day.	- Confiscation of the phone - Phone only returned to parent/carer following a signed agreement - 1 day of Reflect room

Offence	Description / Example	Suggested Sanction
Persistent non-compliance with mobile phone policy	Student persistently refuses to follow mobile phone policy.	Escalating sanctions including potential external suspension

9. Emergencies

In an emergency, parents must contact school reception. If a student requires urgent contact with home, staff will facilitate this through appropriate channels.

10. Exceptions

Any required exceptions (e.g. for medical or SEN reasons) must be agreed in writing with the **SENCO** and **Headteacher**. These will be rare and handled discreetly.

11. Searching and confiscation

The school reserves the right to search and confiscate mobile phones in accordance with DfE guidance. School staff must follow the guidance in appendix 1 when searching a student's mobile phone.

a. Legal powers to search

- Headteachers and authorised staff have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions without consent if they suspect the pupil has a prohibited item.
- Mobile phones are not automatically listed as prohibited but they can be searched if there is a reasonable suspicion they contain:
 - Pornographic material
 - Evidence of bullying or abuse
 - Material that could cause harm or disruption

b. Searching Electronic Devices

- Staff may examine data or files on a device if they believe there is a good reason to do so.
- They may delete data or files if they believe it is appropriate and necessary to do so to:
 - Protect the pupil
 - Protect others
 - Maintain school discipline

c. Confiscation

- Schools can confiscate mobile phones if they are used in breach of school rules (ie if a student has their phone out of its lockable pouch)
- Confiscated phones should be stored securely and returned according to the school's behaviour policy

d. Safeguarding considerations

- If a search reveals safeguarding concerns (eg, sexting, abuse, threats), staff must follow the safeguarding procedures

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and reviewed annually or in response to updated DfE guidance.

Appendix 1: Staff instructions for searching a student's phone



