NICHOLAS CHAMBERLAINE SCHOOL

Mobile Phone Policy

Date: April 2026
Review Due: April 2027

Reviewed Annually

1. Policy Overview

This policy sets out the school's expectations regarding student use of mobile phones and other personal communication devices during the school day. In line with Department for Education guidance and the school's commitment to safeguarding, behaviour, and high-quality learning, **students are not permitted to use mobile phones at any point while on school premises**.

To support consistent implementation, the school will operate a **Secure Lockable Phone Pouch system** for all students. From **September 2026**, students in **Year 7 will not be permitted to bring a smartphone into school**.

2. Objectives of this Policy

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

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students during the school day, including breaktimes and transition periods
- All personal devices capable of communication or media access, including mobile phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and similar technology
- 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 with a personally assigned, signal-blocking phone pouch
- Students must bring their pouch to school every day
- On entering the school site, mobile phones must be placed inside the pouch and locked
- The pouch remains with the student throughout the day and cannot be opened until the end of the school day
- At the end of the final lesson, students may unlock their pouch at a designated unlocking station
- If a student leaves school early, their pouch will be unlocked by reception staff
- If a pouch is forgotten, the device must be handed to the Head of Year and collected at the end of the day.

5. Expectations of Students

- Bring their pouch to school every day and use it correctly
- Keep their pouch and device secure and in good condition
- Follow all staff instructions regarding pouch use
- Not bring or use any item intended to bypass the system (e.g. second phones, smartwatches, unlocking tools)
- Not damage or deface the pouch — this will be treated as deliberate misconduct

6. Expectations of Staff

- Enforce pouch use consistently during tutor time, including visual checks and supervised locking
- Conduct spot checks during the school day where misuse is suspected
- Unlock pouches at the end of the final lesson (where responsible for an unlocking station)
- Report damage, missing pouches, or misuse to the relevant Year Leader
- Ensure unlocking stations remain secure and inaccessible to students

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 reception as the point of contact in emergencies – students are not contactable during the day

8. Breaches of Policy – Sanctions

Breach Type	**Sanction**
Phone not placed in pouch or phone used during the school day	Device confiscated until the end of the school day and detention
Second offence (within a half term)	Device confiscated and retained overnight; detention and parental notification

Attempting to bypass the system (e.g. second phone, unlocking tools, smartwatch use)	Device confiscated and retained overnight; detention; parental meeting
Deliberate damage or vandalism of pouch	Device confiscated; detention; charge for replacement; parental contact
Persistent or defiant non-compliance	Escalating sanctions including extended confiscation, senior leadership intervention, and potential suspension

Where a device is retained overnight, it will be:

- Stored securely by the school
- Returned to the student or parent/carer the following school day
- Logged in line with school safeguarding and property procedures

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

Exceptions to this policy (e.g. for medical or SEND reasons) must be agreed in advance and in writing with the SENCO and Head of School. These exceptions will be rare and managed discreetly.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by governors and reviewed annually or in response to updated DfE guidance.