



CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

Mobile Phone Policy

From September 2026, the DfE have made clear that *'all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only'*. At Cannock Chase High School, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities - but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Our goal is to promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment, whilst encouraging responsible use of technology. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone policy that incorporates the Yondr programme <https://www.veryondr.com/>.

We believe that every student deserves the chance to experience a phone-free education. Our phone pouches provide a simple and secure way of supporting this approach across our school. This approach provides a balanced solution, ensuring young people retain possession of their phones while minimising distractions during school hours. The pouch helps foster social interaction, improve focus on learning and reduce stress associated with phone use, all while maintaining communication for families during travel to and from school.

This policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in school, such as:

- risks to child protection;
- data protection issues;
- risk of theft, loss, or damage;
- appropriate use of technology for learning purposes.

Note: Throughout this policy, 'mobile phones' refers to mobile phones and similar devices. This policy meets the requirements of section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and School Act 2026, and the Department for Education (DfE)'s mobile phone and behaviour guidance.

Student Phone Policy

Our school is a phone-free community. Each student will be assigned a personal phone pouch, and they are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in good working condition.

Phones and wearable technology, including smart watches, will be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until the end of the school day.

Arrival

Upon arrival, students will:

1. turn their phone off;
2. place their phone and any wearable technology inside their pouch and lock it **in the presence of school staff**;
3. keep the pouched phone with them throughout the school day and store it in their bag.

At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouch, retrieve their phone and related technology and re-close the pouch to protect the locking mechanism from damage. Pouches must be brought to and from school each day.

Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or un-pouch their phones in the Student Reception.

Students who refuse to show their phone pouch will be searched using a wand, as per the school behaviour policy.

Procedures and Sanctions

Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals

Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or un-pouch their phones and wearable technology at the main Student Reception, or the school Reception if they are exiting through this route.

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected and securely stored in the office until the end of the day. If a student needs to collect their phone at the end of the day, this can only be done if the student exits through **Lower School** gate, where the phones will be available to be picked up from a member of staff. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures. Repeated instances will result in the pouch being treated as lost and a replacement fee of £15 will be charged.

Phone Use During the School Day

If a student is found in possession of a phone **outside of their pouch** on school site, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. It will be returned once collected by a parent or carer. If this is a first offence, a parent/carers can collect the mobile phone or associated technology on the same day. If this is a repeat offence, then items of technology can only be collected 24 hours after the incident. If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone without a pouch during the day, they will be placed in isolation. Repeat offences of the same nature may result in an escalated sanction.

Screening, in accordance with DFE guidance, may be conducted if teachers have concerns that a student has a mobile device on them that has not been secured into their pouch.

Damaged Pouches

Any attempt to tamper with the phone pouch system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a **serious offence**, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £15, confiscation of the device until a parent/guardian picks it up and an internal suspension issued.

If accidental damage occurs, students must report it immediately. If damage is discovered during checks and has not been reported, it may be considered **intentional**.



The following may indicate intentional damage:

- ripped or cut fabric;
- bent or cut pin;
- signs of force to the black locking mechanism;
- pen marks inside the pouch which attempt to cover the number on the pouch;
- pouch opening without a station;
- scuff marks on the black ball.

The pouch should not be used as a replacement for a protective case and/or screen protector on a mobile device.

Emergencies and Safeguarding

Communications During the School Day

Parents/carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via the **school office** on 01543 502450. We will then pass this message onto your child. Parents/carers also have access to the Class Charts App, which they can use to send a message to staff or log an attendance update. The school is clear that parents/carers do not need to contact a student during the day through a mobile phone. Furthermore, staff in school will not ask parents/carers to try and contact a student on site using a mobile phone.

Medical Conditions

Students who require access to their mobile devices for specific medical purposes will be provided with a medical pouch. These medical conditions include but are not limited to: Diabetes type 1, medical impacts and the use of pacemakers. The school has a list of students who require a medical pouch. Parents/carers must provide medical evidence to the school about the issue of a mobile phone for medical reasons before a medical pouch will be issued.

Emergency Procedures

In an emergency, the priority is for students to follow school safety procedures under staff guidance. Unauthorised phone use during such situations may:

- delay emergency responses;
- spread misinformation;
- put students and staff at increased risk;
- disrupt coordinated safeguarding measures.

Emergency communications will be managed through the school. The school is in possession of series of handheld unlocking devices which can be utilised in an emergency.

Exemptions

The school may permit students to use a mobile phone in school, due to exceptional circumstances. Permission will only be granted where there is a documented safeguarding or medical necessity. To request such permission, students or parents/carers should contact the Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Attitudes).

Any students who are given permission must then adhere to the school's code of conduct regarding mobile phone use and will be issued with a Velcro phone pouch.

Sixth Form students are allowed access to their mobile phones during the school day to reflect their increased independence and responsibility but must not compromise our policy on the use of mobile phones for other students. Therefore, they are only permitted to use their mobile phones or smart devices out of sight of younger students in the Sixth Form Centre. Sixth Form students should not be seen using their phone around the school site. Misuse of mobile phones or other devices by students in the Sixth Form will lead to sanctions according to our behaviour policy.

Students should not use mobile phones on a school trip or visit unless explicitly allowed by the trip leader. Guidance regarding mobile phone use on school trips will be given individually for each trip.

Role of Parents

Parents are encouraged to reinforce and discuss this policy at home as appropriate, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.

Loss, Theft or Damage

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from school. Confiscated phones will be stored in the school office in a locked cabinet.

Mobile Phone Use by Staff

Staff will often use mobile devices to communicate with each other during the school day to promote and ensure the safe running of the school.

Implementation date:	Last review date:	Next Review date:	Statutory Policy:
July 2026	July 2026	July 2027	No