

Mobile Device Policy Implementation – September 2026 – Frequently Asked Questions

Which Year Groups will be using the new mobile phone pouches?

All students in Year 7 – 11 will be using the new mobile phone pouches from September 2026. Students in the Sixth Form will be expected to only use their mobile devices in social and study spaces within the Sixth Form building and should have their devices away, in their bags at all other times.

Does this apply only to smartphones?

This policy applies to all electronic devices including smartphones, brick phones (those not connected to the internet), Bluetooth or wireless headphones, gaming devices and smartwatches. All of these items are considered to be part of the policy and therefore expected to be in a mobile phone pouch or stored securely in the students bag if too big to fit in the pouch. All of these items are not to be used within the school day by students.

Do I have to pay for the pouch?

No. All students will be given their first pouch by the school for free. It is the students responsibility to ensure the pouch is brought to school every day and remains free from damage or graffiti.

The pouch remains the property of TGS and when students leave the school the pouch should be returned.

If students lose or damage their pouch a replacement pouch will need to be purchased by parents or carers.

When will students receive their pouch

The policy implementation will start on the first day of the Autumn term in September 2026. Students will receive information and guidance about the changes and how to use the pouches in the summer term before the policy is implemented. On the first day of term all students will be taught how to lock and unlock their pouches.

What is the process for putting a mobile device into the pouch.

1. Students bring their pouch to school every day.
2. Students unlock their pouch by tapping it against an unlocking device available at the entrance to the school via the Main student gate (Leisure Centre).
3. Students ensure the phone is switched off and place mobile devices including phones, headphones and smartwatches into their pouch.
4. The pouch is then secured with the press of the button and is placed into the students bag. The pouch remains locked until the student unlocks it via tapping on the unlocking device upon exit at the end of the school day.

Further details of the process, including a video showing the process in full will be available on our website shortly.

How will you stop students access unlocking points during the day

All unlocking devices are stored within lockable boxes which are locked during the school day therefore preventing access to the unlocking devices. The devices are unlocked before students leave site to ensure students have access. Students can access the unlocking devices on the path on the way to the main student entrance or Sixth Form pedestrian exit.

Where should students store their pouches during the school day?

Students are responsible for looking after their phone pouches throughout the school day. They should be kept securely within their school bags.

What if my child does not bring a phone or other electronic device to school?

If students are not bringing a device to school you can let us know by completing the online form available [here](#).

By doing so you are asserting that your child will not be bringing a device to school. They will be issued with an exemption card and are required to show this each day to members of staff on duty and in tutor time.

Should students with an exemption card be found to have a device a sanction will be applied and the exemption card removed.

My child has forgotten their pouch, or I need to buy a new one, but they still have a phone or device with them at school. What should they do?

Students who bring devices without a pouch are required to hand their devices into Student Services before tutor time in the morning. Devices will be securely locked in a safety box inside a locked cupboard or office. Devices can then be collected by the student at the end of the school day.

How quick is the unlocking process at the end of the day? How will you stop it from being too busy or ensure students don't miss the bus?

Unlocking devices will be available via the footpath towards the main student entrance (Leisure Centre) and via the Sixth Form student gate. Unlocking the pouch takes seconds and should not cause delays. We have worked with the company providing the pouches and other schools who have adopted similar strategies to ensure we have over provided in terms of number of unlocking stations. TGS staff will be on duty at the end of the day to ensure students move through the unlocking process swiftly.

Are there any exceptions to using the pouches?

All students will be required to store their devices in the pouches. We do however understand that some students require access to a device for medical needs such as monitoring blood sugar levels. These students will be provided with a pouch that is unlockable by the student at any time in order for them to access their device for the intended purpose. Students in receipt of this exemption are not permitted to use their device for any other reason other than the medical need required.

During the summer term the team at TGS will contact the families and students impacted to discuss further. If you feel you need to discuss a medical exemption further, please contact Mrs Forster via afortster@tgschool.net

How can I contact my child during the day

We have always expected that parents who need to contact their child should do so via reception by phone or email. The introduction of the pouches does not change this. Our reception is staffed between 8:30am and 4:30pm every day.

Students who need to contact you as parents or carers are encouraged to speak to staff at student services during break, before or after school. Students are not permitted to use their devices during the school day. Doing so would be a breach of the policy and result in an appropriate sanction being applied.

What happens if my child arrives late to school or leaves school early?

We recognise that there will be times when students arrive to, or leave, school outside of the usual times. In these cases unlocking devices are available at reception for students to lock and unlock their pouches.

What happens if they forget to unlock at the end of the day?

The experience of schools that have implemented similar approaches is that this rarely happens. If it does, students are permitted to return to reception during its staffed hours (8:30am – 4:30pm) to unlock their pouch. Staff at the bus park will have unlocking devices to support those students who realise they have forgotten after passing the unlocking stations.

If this is not possible then our advice is for students (and families) to enjoy a phone free evening.

Why do you insist that phones are switched off in the pouch?

The pouches provided are signal blocking, therefore any phone that is switched on in the pouch will continue to search for a network during the day. This will increase battery use and may lead to the battery reaching 0% and switching itself off. To avoid students having no battery we insist phones are switched off.

What about transport to and from school?

We recognise that large number of our students travel by public transport to reach school. For this reason we decided that a complete ban on phones at TGS was not appropriate as we understand many students need their device to ensure safe travel home. Therefore, students are allowed to use their devices on transport to and from school.

How will you check students have followed the expected process?

TGS staff will be on duty each morning and afternoon to ensure students have placed their devices into their pouch and have locked it. Once in tutor time, checking the pouches will be part of the daily routine to ensure students are engaged in the process. Any students without a pouch, or where there is a suspicion that they may have a device in their bag / pocket will be searched to ensure they are complying with the policy.

What are you doing to support students who struggle with change?

By outlining this change early we hope that students will have the necessary time to understand and comprehend the changes and the impact on school life. We will be leading assemblies for all students as well as providing videos of the process so students know what to expect.

Students are able to speak to members of the learning support or student services teams if they have specific concerns and we will endeavour to work through these with students on an individual basis. Break time support will be in place for students who have come to rely on their device during these times.

What happens if students are found to be breaking the rules around mobile devices?

We are implementing this approach to reduce distractions to students' learning, to address concerns about mental health, wellbeing and cyberbullying and to safeguard children from unfiltered internet access. We take this responsibility to the school community very seriously. If even a small number of students attempt to contravene this system then the negative impacts will affect a much wider group (e.g. through phone use in toilets, surreptitious recordings, access and sharing of inappropriate messages or materials).

Any students found to be in breach of the mobile phone policy will be subject to sanctions as per our behaviour Policy (September 2026). This means students can expect to receive a zero-tolerance sanction of a minimum of a full day in the reflection room. The student's device(s) will also be confiscated until the end of that day.

Where students are persistently in breach of the policy an escalated sanction will apply, as per the sanctions available to us in our behaviour policy. The device in question will also be held for a period of 24 hour and collected by parents.

If a student is issued a sanction for breach of the mobile phone policy parents will be contacted by phone or email.

What if a student fails to comply with the sanction imposed?

In these cases, we would expect, that after a period of reflection, the student chooses to comply with the expectations set out. If they are unable to comply an escalated sanction will be applied in line with our Behaviour Policy. This may include internal exclusion or external suspension as appropriate.

Are you allowed to confiscate my child's mobile device?

Yes. From September 2026, possession of mobile phones outside of a pouch will be classified as possession of a prohibited item in our behaviour policy.

The Department for Education (DfE) Mobile phones in schools Guidance (updated February 2026) states that "Schools can use a range of sanctions for breaching the mobile phone policy appropriate to their context, including confiscation." The law protects staff from liability for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, provided they act lawfully.

Headteachers are supported by the DfE to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices for a period they deem proportionate. Additionally, headteachers or staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a student or their possessions if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the student is in possession of a prohibited item (including mobile phones).

Can students be searched or screened for mobile phones?

Yes. Department for Education guidance permits screening and searching for prohibited items (“[Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools](#)” July 2022) and we will use these approaches as necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the school community in line with our Behaviour Policy.

What are the arrangements for school trips and fixtures?

Decisions around student access to mobile devices for school trips and fixtures will be made on a case-by-case basis. The approach for each trip will be clearly communicated in the initial trip letter.