

Oakmoor Mobile Phone Policy

Oakmoor School Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy

1. Policy Statement

Oakmoor School is committed to providing a calm, safe, focused and respectful learning environment where all students can achieve their full potential. The school recognises the increasing impact that mobile phones, smart devices and social media can have on learning, wellbeing and social interaction. To support students' academic success and personal development, Oakmoor School operates a mobile phone pouch system for all students.

This policy sets out the expectations, responsibilities and procedures relating to the possession and use of mobile phones and other personal electronic devices at Oakmoor School. It forms part of the school's Behaviour Policy and applies to all students on the school site and during the school day.

2. Legal Context

In June 2026, legislation was introduced in England prohibiting the use of mobile phones by students during the school day. Oakmoor School's mobile phone pouch system has been implemented to ensure full compliance with this legal requirement while supporting students' wellbeing, learning and personal development.

The school recognises that mobile phones can be useful before and after school for travel and communication with families. Our school's mobile phone pouch system has been introduced to ensure compliance with this legal requirement while maintaining a practical, consistent and supportive approach. Students are permitted to bring mobile phones to school for use during their journey to and from school; however, once on site, all phones must be secured within a locked school-issued pouch and remain inaccessible until the end of the school day.

By implementing this system, Oakmoor School aims not only to fulfil its legal responsibilities but also to support student wellbeing, reduce distractions, promote positive behaviour and create an environment where learning can flourish.

3. Wellbeing and Educational Benefits

Oakmoor School believes that students benefit from periods of time free from the demands and distractions associated with smartphones, messaging applications and social media platforms. Research and experience demonstrate that reducing access to mobile devices during the school day can improve concentration, increase engagement in learning, strengthen face-to-face social interaction and support positive mental wellbeing.

The phone pouch system is intended to:

- Improve academic focus and engagement in lessons.
- Reduce the distraction caused by notifications, messaging and social media.
- Encourage positive face-to-face communication and social interaction.
- Support healthy and balanced technology habits.
- Reduce opportunities for cyberbullying and online conflict during the school day.
- Create a calmer, safer and more inclusive school environment.

The school recognises that families may hold differing views regarding mobile phone use. However, the overriding priority is to provide the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing, safeguarding and positive social development.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all students whilst on the school site and during any school-led activity, visit or educational provision unless otherwise directed by staff.

5. Devices Covered by this Policy

This policy applies to:

- Mobile phones.
- Smartphones.
- Smart watches.
- Wireless earbuds and headphones.
- Tablets with communication capabilities.
- Any device capable of internet access, communication, photography, video recording or gaming.

6. Mobile Phone Pouch System

Arrival at School

Students who bring a mobile phone to school must:

1. Place their phone into their assigned school phone pouch upon arrival.
2. Lock the pouch before the start of the school day.
3. Keep the locked pouch with them throughout the day.

The pouch remains the property of Oakmoor School and is issued for student use. Staff may conduct checks to ensure compliance.

Arriving late to school

Upon signing in students will need to unlock their pouch in reception and show the reception team their phone being placed in the pouch before access to the school site is permitted.

During the School Day

- Mobile phones must remain secured inside the locked pouch at all times.
- Students must not attempt to open the pouch during the school day.
- Phones must not be used in lessons, tutor time, breaktimes, lunchtime, corridors, toilets or any other area of the school site.
- Staff may carry out compliance checks at any point during the day.

End of the School Day

Students may unlock their pouches using designated unlocking stations when leaving the school site. Phones may then be used after the student has left school for the day. Students should then lock the pouch immediately after removing devices.

Leaving school early

If a student is leaving school early then they will be able to unlock their pouch in reception upon signing out.

7. Smart Watches

Smart watches are not permitted for use during the school day as they often provide access to communication, internet services and notifications in the same way as mobile phones. Students who bring smart watches to school must place them within their phone pouch.

Any smart watch found in use during the school day will be treated as a breach of this policy.

8. Medical Exemptions

The school recognises that some students may require access to a mobile-connected medical device.

Medical exemptions will only be granted where:

- There is a documented medical need.
- The device is required to support an approved medical condition.
- Appropriate medical evidence has been provided.

Examples may include continuous glucose monitoring systems that communicate with a mobile phone. Alternative arrangements will be agreed between the school, parents/carers and relevant medical professionals.

9. Communication Between Home and School

During the school day:

- Parents/carers should contact students through School Reception.
- Students who need to contact home must do so through a member of staff or the school office.
- Emergency messages will be communicated promptly through established school procedures.

Students must not use personal devices to communicate during the school day.

10. Forgotten, Lost or Damaged Pouches

Forgotten Pouch

Students who forget their pouch will be issued with a temporary school pouch for the day. The temporary pouch must be returned before leaving school.

Lost or Damaged Pouch

The pouch remains the property of Oakmoor School.

Where a pouch is lost or damaged:

- A replacement charge of £20 will be made.
- Deliberate damage may result in additional sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

- Until a replacement pouch is obtained, students may be required to hand in their phone at Reception at the start of the school day and collect it at the end of the day.

Personalisation

Pouches must not be altered, decorated, written on or damaged in any way. Any vandalism of school property may result in sanctions and replacement costs.

11. Breaches of the Policy

The following are considered breaches of this policy:

- Using a phone during the school day.
- Carrying a phone outside the pouch.
- Attempting to access a phone during the school day.
- Carrying a second phone or undeclared device.
- Using a smart watch during the school day.
- Using earbuds or headphones without permission.
- Placing items other than authorised devices in the pouch.
- Refusing a staff instruction relating to this policy. [New Phone Systems | PowerPoint]

12. Consequences

First Breach

The device and pouch will be confiscated and parents/carers notified. The device will be stored securely and parents/carers will be required to collect the device.

Repeated Breaches

Following further breaches:

- Students may be required to hand their phone into Reception each morning for an agreed period.
- Additional sanctions may be applied in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Refusal to Comply

Students who refuse to surrender a device or refuse to comply with reasonable staff instructions will be removed from circulation while the matter is investigated. Parents/carers will be contacted and further sanctions may be applied.

13. Searching and Confiscation

Where staff have reasonable grounds to believe a student is in possession of, or using, a mobile phone or other prohibited device in breach of this policy, the school reserves the right to require the device to be handed over in accordance with statutory powers available to schools and the school's Behaviour Policy.

Failure to comply with staff instructions will be treated as a serious breach of school expectations.

14. Liability

Students bring mobile phones and electronic devices to school at their own risk.

Whilst the school provides a secure storage system through the use of phone pouches, Oakmoor School cannot accept responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal electronic devices unless caused by proven negligence on the part of the school. Students remain responsible for the security and care of their own possessions.

15. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure it continues to meet legal requirements and support the school's aims relating to safeguarding, learning and wellbeing.

Policy Effective Date: 1 September 2026

Review Date: July 2027

Responsible Officer: Headteacher

Linked Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy