



# The Radclyffe School

“Working Together for Excellence”

## Mobile Phone Consultation FAQs

### **Why is The Radclyffe School considering a phone free policy using pouches?**

We have two main objectives:

- A) To improve the mental health of our young people.
- B) To ensure a calm and orderly, disruption-free learning environment is maintained.

There is a significant amount of national and international research that suggests there is a clear link between mental health and the use of mobile phones. Our students' mental health is important to us, and we are passionate about doing all that we can to support this. There is also a range of research in place that suggests that learning and attention in the classroom is disrupted by the distraction of mobile phones. By removing this distraction, we believe that our students will benefit greatly, both inside and outside the classroom.

### **During what parts of the school day will the new policy apply?**

The Radclyffe School is proposing that we will be phone-free throughout the entire school day, from the moment students arrive in the morning before they enter the building, until they leave the academy building at the end of the day. This matches our current rule.

### **Can my child bring a mobile phone to school at all?**

Yes, students can bring their phones for safety and travel reasons. However, they will be securely stored in a pouch on their person during the school day as part of the mobile phone-free policy.

### **How will the school manage students' mobile phones?**

At the start of the day, all students' mobile phones will be placed in their own phone pouch and magnetically locked. These will then be able to be unlocked at the end of the day at several points around the exits of the school.

### **What happens if a student is caught using their phone during school hours?**

If a student is using their phone during the school day, it will be confiscated, and Parents/Carers will need to come to collect the mobile phone, it will not be returned to the student. If a child fails to hand their phone to a member of staff, this will be dealt with in line with the behaviour policy.

### **What if my child needs to contact me during the school day?**

If a student needs to contact you, they can do so via the school office. We already do this daily when a student informs us that they need to contact home.



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## **How will I contact my child in case of an emergency?**

In case of an emergency, you can contact the school office, and they will ensure the message is passed to your child promptly. The school will also contact you if there is an urgent need, in line with the robust safeguarding and safety processes we already have in place.

## **Will staff be able to use their mobile phones?**

Staff will use their mobile phones for emails, to take the registers or for internal communication within the school. Staff are clear on the expectations of the school and are fully aware of the importance of their role in the process.

## **Will the behaviour policy change?**

Yes – we will update our behaviour policy to ensure the mobile phone system is carefully built into it along with the mobile devices policy.

## **What if my child uses their phone to monitor a medical condition?**

Students who have recognised medical conditions that need monitoring throughout the day will be able to come to student services to have the pouch unlocked. For those students who need to regularly check a special pouch may be ordered.

## **Will I need to pay for the pouch?**

Every student will be provided with a free pouch which must last them until they leave The Radclyffe School. If your child loses their pouch or damage occurs, a new pouch must be bought at the cost of £20 before your child can bring their phone to school again.

## **How will this policy impact my child’s social interactions?**

The policy encourages face-to-face interaction among students, particularly during breaktimes and lunchtime. It helps foster better communication skills and reduces reliance on technology for socialising. Other schools have reported that their children interact better without the distraction of the mobile phones.

## **Are there exceptions for special events or school activities?**

Exceptions may be made for field trips or other school activities where phones are necessary for safeguarding reasons. In such cases, the school will inform students and parents in advance. This is an area that will be carefully considered before each event.



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## **How will the school ensure that the policy is enforced?**

Staff members will monitor student behaviour throughout the day, ensuring that phones are securely stored. Regular reminders will be provided during registration sessions and assemblies. Staff will also receive training before the policy is implemented on how to support and monitor students effectively. We also propose increasing the sanction for not following policy with confiscations being kept for 48 hours on the first confiscation and 5 days on the second each term it will reset. This should not be a problem with phone pouches being introduced as phones will be locked away in student’s bags until the end of the day.

## **How can I support the school in implementing this policy?**

You can support the policy by encouraging your child to follow the rules, discussing the importance of the policy with them, and only contacting them through the school reception in the case of an emergency. If your child is caught with their phone in school, it will be confiscated, and you will need to come to the academy to collect it in line with the confiscations of mobile devices.

## **What is the school’s policy on smart watches?**

We have a current policy that we do not allow smart watches in school and if a student were to bring one in, they would be confiscated in line with our current and new policy.

## **What happens if I need to collect my child during the school day, will they be able to get access to their mobile phone?**

Yes, a member of staff will allow your child to unlock their phone pouch before collection. To ensure that this happens, all collections must be pre-arranged with the school. If your child is unwell during the school day, a member of staff must give them permission to go home and will contact parents from a school phone in this event.

## **What if my child forgets their pouch?**

If your child has their phone and has not brought their pouch, they will be expected to hand it in at their student entrance in the morning where it will be kept safe for them to collect at the end of the day. If they fail to do this and later, it is found that they have kept their phone on them, the phone will be confiscated and held for a period by the school and the behaviour policy will be followed. If a student must hand in their phone because they have forgotten their pouch, they will be able to collect the phone at the end of the day, but it will not be until after 3.30pm as we would expect students to have their pouch as part of their uniform