



SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE POLICY

STATUS	Approved	APPROVAL	Full Governing Body
MAINTENANCE	Full Governing Body	ROLE	Deputy Headteacher
DATE EFFECTIVE	July 2026	DATE OF LAST REVIEW	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	July 2027	DATE WITHDRAWN	Not Withdrawn
LEAD PROFESSIONAL	Deputy Headteacher	LOCATION OF POLICY	www.coltonhills.co.uk

Guidance on mobile phones in schools became statutory (legally enforceable) on 29 June 2026 under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

What changed?

From 29 June 2026, state-funded schools in England must have regard to statutory government guidance that says schools should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**.

What does the guidance require?

Schools are expected to have policies that prohibit students from using:

- Mobile phones
- Smartphones
- Similar devices with communication or notification functions to include AI smart tech devices such as glasses, watches, earbuds or buttons should not be used on school site by students from all year groups: 7 – 13.

throughout the school day, including:

- Lessons
- Between lessons
- Break times
- Lunchtime

Can students still bring phones to school?

Usually yes. The law does **not** prescribe one enforcement method. Schools can choose approaches such as:

- Phones left at home (students are welcome to leave their devices at home)
- Phones handed in at registration (**this is not an option at Colton Hills Community School due to the risk of loss, theft or damage**)
- Lockers or secure pouches (**CHCS operates a Yondr pouch system**)



- Phones switched off and kept in bags all day (**6th Form Students – ONLY and should only be used outside of the school main gate before or after school, but not on the school site).**

Colton Hills Community School has adopted the use of Yondr pouches to support our mobile free school environment.

Are there exceptions?

Yes. Schools can make exceptions for:

- Medical needs (for example, apps used to monitor diabetes) – **Miss Lannigan, Assistant Headteacher for SEND & Inclusion working with Mr McKerdy support all students with medical plans and risk assessments associated with these.**
- Specific pupil circumstances – **SEND (Miss Lannigan / Mrs Hanna (KS3) or Mrs Dulai (KS4)).**

When do schools have to follow it?

The Department for Education states that the guidance became statutory on **29 June 2026**, and schools should begin following it from **1 September 2026**.

State-funded schools (maintained schools, academies and free schools)

These schools are covered by the statutory guidance. They are expected to have a policy that prohibits students from accessing or using mobile phones throughout the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaks and lunch. Schools can choose how they enforce this, but they must have regard to the guidance.

Sixth forms and post-16 settings

The guidance does not apply to standalone sixth-form colleges, further education colleges, or other post-16 institutions. However, they may choose to use the guidance when creating their own policies. Some schools may also allow limited phone use by Year 12 and 13 students in designated areas. **(As our school site is open to Year 7 – 13 students we offer no exception. CHCS is phone free environment).**

What powers do teachers have?

Teachers in England have long had legal powers to confiscate prohibited items, including mobile phones, where this is supported by the school's behaviour policy. The new statutory guidance strengthens schools' expectation to operate phone-free environments but does not create an entirely new confiscation power.



In practice, if a school's policy says phones must be switched off, handed in, or kept out of use all day, staff can enforce that policy and confiscate a phone that is being used contrary to the rules. **This is the case at Colton Hills Community School.**

What happens if a student breaks the rules?

The consequences depend on the school's behaviour policy. Typical sanctions might include:

- Confiscation requiring a parent or carer to collect the device.
- Detentions or other behaviour sanctions following confiscation.
- Escalated sanctions for repeated breaches.

The guidance leaves these operational decisions to headteachers and governing bodies.

Why was the change introduced?

The government says the aim is to:

- Reduce classroom disruption.
- Improve concentration and learning.
- Reduce cyberbullying.
- Limit social media pressures during the school day.
- Help create calmer school environments.

What this means for parents

Children can generally still carry a phone for travelling to and from school, but most schools will now be expected to prevent them from accessing it during the school day. Parents who need to contact their child during school hours would normally do so through the school office.

In short, from **29 June 2026** the government moved from recommending phone-free schools to making guidance on phone-free school environments legally enforceable for state-funded schools in England, with implementation expected from **1 September 2026**.

Mobile Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

1. Policy Statement

At Colton Hills Community School, we are committed to providing a safe, calm and focused learning environment where all students can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Research and experience demonstrate that limiting access to mobile phones during the school day improves concentration, reduces distractions, supports positive behaviour and enhances face-to-face interactions.

To achieve this:



- **Students in Years 7–11** will use **Yondr pouches** to secure mobile phones and personal communication devices throughout the school day.
- **Students in Years 12–13 (Sixth Form)** may retain their phones, but they must operate under a **"Not Seen, Not Heard"** expectation during lessons and formal learning activities.

This policy applies to all mobile phones, smart watches capable of communication, earbuds used for communication, and similar personal electronic devices as listed previously.

2. Aims

The policy aims to:

- Maximise learning time and engagement.
- Reduce distractions in lessons.
- Promote positive wellbeing and social interaction.
- Minimise safeguarding concerns associated with mobile phone use.
- Reduce incidents involving cyberbullying, filming, photography and misuse of social media during the school day.
- Prepare students for responsible use of technology.

3. Years 7–11: Yondr Pouch System

3.1 Arrival at School

Students in Years 7–11 may bring a mobile phone to school if parents/carers wish them to have one for travel purposes.

Upon arrival:

- Phones must be switched off or placed into airplane mode.
- Phones must be secured in the student's assigned Yondr pouch before registration.
- The pouch remains in the student's possession throughout the day.
- The pouch is locked until the end of the school day.

Students retain physical possession of their phone but cannot access it during the school day.

3.2 During the School Day

Mobile phones must remain:

- Locked in the Yondr pouch.
- Out of sight during lessons, social times and movement around school.



- Unused unless authorised by a senior member of staff in exceptional circumstances – Example, for medical reasons or to contact a parent/carer.

Students may not:

- Tamper with the pouch.
- Attempt to unlock the pouch.
- Use another student's phone.
- Possess a second undisclosed device.

3.3 End of the School Day

Students may unlock their Yondr pouch at designated unlocking stations when dismissed from school.

Phones may be used after students leave the school site unless otherwise instructed for educational visits.

4. Sixth Form (Years 12–13): "Not Seen, Not Heard"

The Sixth Form operates a model of increased independence and responsibility.

Students may carry mobile phones during the school day but must adhere to the following expectation:

Not Seen

Mobile phones must not be visible:

- During lessons.
- During assemblies.
- During examinations or assessments.
- During tutor periods.
- During break or lunch times.
- During meetings with staff.

Not Heard

Phones must:

- Be on silent mode.
- Not produce notifications, sounds or vibrations that disrupt learning.
- Not be used for calls in classrooms or study areas.



5. Smart Watches and Other Devices

For Years 7–13:

- Smart watches with communication capability are treated as mobile phones and must be secured within the Yondr pouch.
- Sixth Form students must not wear such devices. If students in Sixth Form choose to bring such devices into school they should be stored in bags or in a Yondr pouch which can be made available (See Mr Bentley – Director of Sixth Form or Mr Ryan – Assistant / Pastoral Care).

6. Emergencies and Parental Contact

Parents/carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via the school office.

Students who need to contact home should speak to a member of staff and use school systems where appropriate.

In genuine emergencies, staff can facilitate direct communication.

8. Sanctions

Years 7–11

First Incident

- Phone confiscated (if accessed during the day).
- Recorded on school behaviour system.
- Returned to parent/carer or collected following school procedure.

Repeated Incidents

- Behaviour sanctions applied.
- Meeting with parents/carers to understand why there is an issue in following school expectations.
- Additional monitoring and support.
- Potential withdrawal of permission to bring a phone onto site.

Tampering with a Yondr Pouch

Any deliberate attempt to:

- Break,
- Damage,



- Force open, or
- Circumvent

the Yondr system will be treated as a serious breach of school rules.

Sanctions may include:

- Detention.
- Time spent in the Respect Room.
- Charging for damaged equipment.
- Further disciplinary action.

Sixth Form

Failure to comply with the "Not Seen, Not Heard" expectation may result in:

1. Reminder and warning.
2. Temporary confiscation of mobile or related items.
3. Form Tutor intervention.
4. Sixth Form behavioural sanction.
5. Removal of phone and devices privilege during the school day.

9. Loss, Theft and Damage

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

The school:

- Does not accept liability for loss, theft or damage to personal devices.
- Expects students to take reasonable care of their belongings.
- Will investigate incidents where appropriate.

Students are responsible for any costs arising from deliberate damage to Yondr pouches.

10. Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises its duties under the **Equality Act 2010**.

Reasonable adjustments may be made where a mobile device forms part of:

- A medical plan.
- Disability support provision.
- Specific safeguarding arrangements.



Such arrangements will be agreed individually with parents/carers and relevant staff.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board to ensure it remains effective, proportionate and aligned with the school's commitment to excellent behaviour, attendance, wellbeing and achievement.

