

**WARBLINGTON
SCHOOL**

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

2026–27

(An addition to the behaviour policy following DfE)

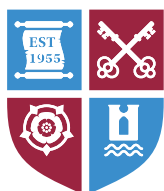
Phone Pouches • RRRK • A mobile-phone-free school day

Ready

Respectful

Resilient

Kind



1. Purpose and policy statement

Warblington School is committed to maintaining a mobile-phone-free environment throughout the school day. This policy supports our wider Behaviour Policy and RRRK Values System: Ready, Respectful, Resilient and Kind.

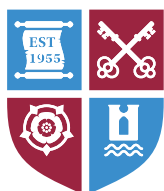
The Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance states that schools in England should be mobile-phone-free by default and should prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar smart technology throughout the school day, including lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. The guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026 and schools should follow it from 1 September 2026.

The school's lockable phone pouches are the mechanism chosen to implement this expectation. The pouch remains locked during the school day and is opened only at the end of the school day, unless an agreed exception applies.

This policy is explicitly referred to in the Home-School Agreement which is signed at by all parties at the start of the year.

2. Student expectations

- Bring your mobile phone pouch as part of your daily equipment, whether or not you have a mobile phone.
- Place your mobile phone into the pouch as directed and keep the pouch secure and with you as instructed.
- Do not access, use, display or deliberately activate your mobile phone or similar personal smart communication device during the school day.
- Do not tamper with, damage, share or attempt to bypass the pouch.
- Use the school office for urgent communication with home during the school day; parents/carers should contact the school rather than their child directly.
- Follow any agreed individual reasonable adjustment or medical/safeguarding arrangement.



3. How the phone pouch system works

Pouches will be distributed/collected as follows: students will be given a pouch and this theirs to keep and look after. Students bring their personal pouch daily and keep it with them as directed.

For the first year all staff will conduct supervised pouch checks for the first four weeks to ensure routine. Any forgotten pouch will: (a) be reported to tutor by morning registration; (b) student is issued a temporary pouch if available; (c) repeated non-compliance will follow the STEP process. Pouch opening at end of day will be supervised by site team and SLT at staggered times to avoid crowding.

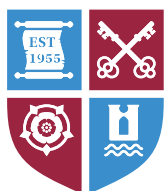
1 BRING IT The pouch is part of your daily equipment. Bring it every day, even if you do not have a mobile phone.	2 SECURE IT Place your phone into the pouch as directed and keep the pouch secure.	3 KEEP IT CLOSED The pouch stays locked and must not be accessed during the school day.	4 UNLOCK AT END The pouch is opened at the end of the school day in the designated way.
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PHONE-FREE MEANS PHONE-FREE No access during lessons, between lessons, break or lunchtime.

4. RRRK and mobile phones

The mobile phone policy is part of the wider RRRK culture. Students are expected to demonstrate the school values in the way they manage technology and respond to expectations.

READY	RESPECTFUL	RESILIENT	KIND
Bring your pouch every day. Follow expectations and Be prepared to learn without digital distractions.	Follow expectations and staff instructions. Respect learning time, privacy and the school environment.	Manage the temptation to check your phone. Develop focus and healthy digital habits.	Use technology responsibly. Do not record, photograph, message or share content that could harm or upset others.



5. Recognition and positive culture

The mobile phone policy is not intended to be a stand-alone punishment system. It sits within our RRRK approach, where positive behaviour is actively recognised.

- Students can earn House Points when they demonstrate Ready, Respectful, Resilient or Kind behaviours.
- Staff are encouraged to recognise students who consistently manage technology responsibly and demonstrate the RRRK values.
- The emphasis is on teaching, reinforcing and celebrating positive choices, not simply catching students breaking rules.

6. What happens if the policy is breached?

Responses will be consistent, proportionate and linked to the school's Behaviour Policy. The purpose of a consequence is to protect the learning environment, reinforce the expectation and help the student make a better choice next time.

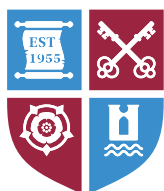
Step 1: First breach — Device confiscated; logged on school behaviour system by staff member; parent/carer notified by same day (phone/email). Student given restorative conversation (10 minutes) and records of action kept. If parent collection is required this will be arranged within 48 hours.

Step 2: Second breach — Escalation recorded; parent meeting convened within 5 school days; two-hour Friday SLT detention or equivalent restorative intervention; documented support plan agreed.

Step 3: Further breaches — Formal behaviour plan reviewed by Head of Year/Assistant Headteacher; sanctions may include Saturday detention (parents present), internal exclusion or other sanctions under Behaviour Policy. Any sanction will be subject to consideration of SEND/medical needs and review.

IMPORTANT Sanctions will be applied proportionately and with regard to individual circumstances, including SEND, disability, medical needs and any agreed reasonable adjustment. If any student is believed to not be operating within the policy and is suspected of using an additional phone or having a device on their person the school will request a search of the student in line with DfE Guidance on Searchign in Schools and the Behaviour Policy around prohibited items

Consequences will include restorative approaches (e.g., mediated conversations, reflection tasks) in addition to sanction. Where appropriate, a support plan addressing underlying issues (e.g., anxiety, social pressures) will be co-produced with student and family.



7. Pouch tampering, damage or loss

If a pouch is damaged due to normal wear or fault, the student must report it to pastoral staff and a replacement will be provided within 48 hours. Where damage is deliberate, an investigation will be held, recorded and proportionate consequences applied. Replacement costs will be charged only following an assessment that confirms deliberate damage or repeated negligence; families will be offered staged payment options. The school will keep a log of pouch faults versus deliberate damage to monitor patterns.

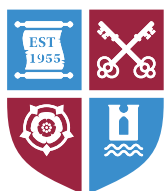
Tampering includes attempting to open, damage, cut, alter or otherwise bypass the pouch.

Students must report a faulty pouch to staff rather than attempting to repair or open it themselves.

8. Exceptions, reasonable adjustments and individual circumstances

The default expectation is that students do not have access to a mobile phone or device during the school day. The school must also comply with its legal duties to make reasonable adjustments and support pupils with medical conditions. Some students may therefore have an agreed individual arrangement where phone access is necessary for a specific purpose.

- Medical needs, including where a phone is required as part of monitoring or managing a medical condition.
- Disability/SEND where access is necessary as a reasonable adjustment.
- Specific safeguarding or wellbeing circumstances where an individual arrangement has been agreed.
- Other exceptional circumstances, such as caring responsibilities, where the school has identified a genuine need and agreed a controlled arrangement. Any adjustment should specify the purpose, time, location and circumstances in which the device may be accessed. It does not automatically mean unrestricted access throughout the school day.



9. Staff responsibilities

Staff must record all confiscations and incidents on the school behaviour management information system within the same school day, including reason, time, staff present and follow-up actions. They must apply the policy consistently and fairly, taking into account individual circumstances, SEND, disability and medical needs before applying a consequence

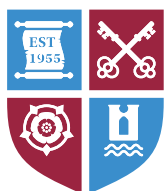
Staff must not use personal mobiles in classrooms or public areas where students are present except for safeguarding or urgent professional reasons; any exceptions must be approved by SLT and recorded.

Use RRRK language when reinforcing expectations — for example, “Being Ready for the day means putting your phone in your pouch and being prepared to learn

New staff will receive training on pouch procedures during induction; all staff will receive annual refresher training and termly briefings.

10. Parents and carers

- Support the school by reinforcing the phone-free expectation at home.
- Do not contact students directly by mobile phone during the school day. Contact the school office if you need to communicate urgently.
- Discuss healthy phone habits, responsible online behaviour and the RRRK values with your child.
- Ensure your child has their pouch each day.
- Work with the school if your child may require a reasonable adjustment or individual arrangement.



11. Monitoring and review

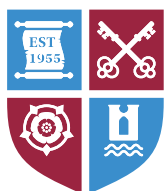
The school will monitor mobile phone incidents, confiscations, pouch issues and repeat patterns through its behaviour recording systems. Data will be reviewed by year group and, where appropriate, by individual need and protected characteristics to identify patterns, disproportionality or the need for additional support.

The policy will be reviewed alongside the Behaviour Policy and in light of DfE statutory guidance, safeguarding requirements, equality duties and implementation evidence.

Monitoring will include termly analysis by year group, gender, SEND, FSM and ethnicity to check for disproportionality. The Headteacher and Governors (Behaviour & Safeguarding link) will receive a termly report summarising incidents, repeat offenders, sanctions applied, adjustments made and any parental complaints. Outcomes from the review will feed directly into the school improvement plan and FGB reporting

Safeguarding

If a mobile phone's content raises safeguarding concerns (e.g., images, messages), staff will follow the school's safeguarding procedures and DSL will be notified immediately. Devices suspected to contain evidence of a crime or safeguarding incident will be handled in line with police guidance and not returned until appropriate checks are completed



12. Legal and educational reference base

- Department for Education — Mobile phones in schools (statutory guidance, updated 29 June 2026).
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, section 36.
- Department for Education — Behaviour in schools.
- Equality Act 2010 — reasonable adjustment duties.
- Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.

Your phone. Your pouch. Your responsibility.

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Resilient. Be Kind.

Policy summary will be made available in accessible formats and translated versions on request to support families for whom English is an additional language or where literacy/accessibility barriers exist."