WARBLINGTON SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Reviewed by:	Headteacher	
Approved by:	Full Governing Body	**Date:** September 2026
Next review due by:	September 2027	

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.

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

BRING IT	SECURE IT	KEEP IT CLOSED	UNLOCK AT END
The pouch is part of your daily equipment. Bring it every day, even if you do not have a mobile phone.	Place your phone into the pouch as directed and keep the pouch secure.	The pouch stays locked and must not be accessed during the school day.	The pouch is opened at the end of the school day in the designated way.

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. 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	RESPONSE	PURPOSE
1	Phone/device will be confiscated and parent/carer collection may be required. A 2-hour Friday SLT detention will apply.	Clear boundary and opportunity to reflect.
2	A further violation may lead to a federation consequence/off-site sanction and parent meeting, in line with the Behaviour Policy.	Escalate support and accountability.
3	Further violations may result in additional formal consequences, which may include Saturday morning detention with parents/carers present or another consequence deemed necessary under the Behaviour Policy.	Address persistent non-compliance and protect learning.

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.

7. Pouch tampering, damage or loss

- Tampering includes attempting to open, damage, cut, alter or otherwise bypass the pouch.
- Tampering is a breach of the school's expectations and may result in a consequence under the Behaviour Policy.
- Where a pouch is deliberately damaged or lost, the school may seek a reasonable replacement cost in line with its published charging arrangements.
- 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 no access to mobile phones 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

- Apply the policy consistently and calmly.
- Use RRRK language when reinforcing expectations — for example, “Being Ready means putting your phone away and being prepared to learn.”
- Avoid personal mobile phone use in front of students during the school day except where there is a legitimate professional reason.
- Follow confiscation, recording and safeguarding procedures.
- Consider individual circumstances, SEND, disability and medical needs before applying a consequence.
- Follow any agreed individual adjustment consistently.

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.

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.