



Thursday 2nd April 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Changes to the Academy's policy on mobile phones

If you need any clarification on the information below, or if a translation would be helpful, please use the following link: <https://translate.google.com/>. Please note that this tool is provided for convenience, and the Academy cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of its translations.

I hope you and your families are having a restful and enjoyable Easter break. I am writing to inform you of important changes to our mobile phone policy, with effect from **Monday 1st June 2026**.

As it currently stands, mobile phones are not permitted during the school day, however we have recognised that mobile phones are a part of everyday life and that students may need access to their phones before and after school for their safety. After careful consideration, in order to foster a focused, calm and distraction-free learning environment, all students who bring a mobile or digital device (including wireless earbuds) to school will be required to secure it in a signal-blocking 'Hush' pouch at the start of each school day. Students will keep their locked pouches with them in their school bag throughout the school day and will unlock them as they leave school site at the end of the day. This is the **only** change to our existing policy on mobile phones.

The wellbeing and safeguarding of our students is at the heart of this change. It is designed to limit distractions in the classroom, reduce inappropriate device use, and encourage meaningful face-to-face interactions between students. Together, these measures support improved engagement, mental health, and overall wellbeing across our school community. These benefits are reinforced by evidence from other schools within our Trust, where parent and student feedback on the use of pouches has been overwhelmingly positive. The change also aligns with DfE guidance, which advises schools to keep phones inaccessible during the day to minimise disruption and bullying, as well as wider research drawing on data from hundreds of UK schools demonstrating strong outcomes where effective bans are in place (links are provided on the next page for reference). Limiting unsupervised access to devices also reduces cyber-bullying, misuse of cameras and exposure to inappropriate or harmful content. With these benefits in mind, we are grateful for your continued support as we invest in this change for the benefit of all students.

How the Hush system will work

- Each student will be issued with their own Hush pouch (provided by the Academy at no cost to families)
- Students must bring their pouch to school each day
- If a student forgets their pouch, they will be required to hand in their devices to duty staff and collect them at the end of the day
- On arrival to school, students place their phones/earbuds/smartwatches in their personal pouch
- Duty staff will be present to supervise and support students during this process



- Pouches remain locked and in students' possession throughout the school day
- On leaving school, students unlock their pouch at designated unlocking stations and retrieve their device(s).

Students requiring access to their phones for medical monitoring purposes will receive adjusted arrangements in line with their previously agreed medical plans with the school.

The Academy will provide the first pouch free of charge. If the pouch is lost or intentionally damaged, vandalised or misused, families will be required to purchase a replacement via Arbor Pay.

All student devices on site must be in their designated locked pouch; attempts to bypass the system, hide devices or use secondary devices will be treated as serious breaches of the behaviour policy. Any additional devices will be confiscated and required to be collected by the parent or guardian when the school day has ended. We will not be returning these devices directly to the students; they will be secured safely on the school site until they're collected.

Next steps

If your child will be bringing a phone or other device to school with them and there are no medical exemptions, you do not need to do anything further.

However, if your child **will not** be bringing a phone or other device to school, or if there are any **medical exemptions**, you need to complete the **Microsoft Form** (link below) by **Friday 15th May 2026**.

You do not need to complete the form if your child will be bringing their phone to school and does not require any medical adjustments.

Link to Microsoft Form: [Mobile Phone Policy - Devices & Exemptions Form - May/June 2026](#)

Support and further information

- **Student assemblies and demos** will be taking place in May.
- **A 'How To' video** is attached to this letter and will be available on our website in due course.
- **MKA's FAQs** are attached to this letter and will be available on our website in due course.
- **Hush website:** <https://www.hushpouch.com/>
- **Hush FAQs** (available from Monday 13th April): <https://www.hushpouch.com/faqs>
- **DfE guidance:** [Mobile Phones in Schools](#)
- **Policy Exchange report:** [Disconnect: The Case for a Smartphone Ban in Schools](#)

We are confident that this change will have a positive impact on all of our students and look forward to seeing the benefits it will have on learning, wellbeing and behaviour across our school community. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to ensure the very best environment and outcomes for our students.

Please refer to the information linked above if you have any questions, and do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any further support or clarification. The Academy's FAQs include further information such as charges for replacement pouches, parental contact with the school in the event of an emergency, and the process for students who need to contact their parents or guardians while at school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Farquhar'.

Gordon Farquhar
Principal