

17 July 2026

Dear Family,

Mobile Phone Guidance

The Department for Education has recently strengthened its guidance on mobile phones in schools. This guidance now forms part of the statutory expectations for schools and makes it clear that mobile phones should not be accessible to students during the school day.

As a result, all schools within Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust have introduced a stand-alone Mobile Phone Policy. While this will result in very little day-to-day change for the vast majority of our students, it does provide an opportunity to reaffirm our expectations and ask for your continued support.

Our policy applies to all mobile phones, smart watches, wireless earbuds/headphones, tablets and any device capable of messaging, recording, photographing, videoing or accessing the internet.

From the moment students enter the school gates until they leave the site, mobile phones must be switched off and stored securely. If a phone is seen, heard or found to be accessible during the school day, even if switched off, it will be confiscated in line with our policy.

The updated government guidance also encourages families to consider whether students need to bring a mobile phone to school at all. We recognise that many students do have legitimate reasons for carrying a phone, including travelling independently, personal safety or medical needs. However, where a phone is not essential, we would encourage you to consider whether it needs to accompany your child to school.

For families whose children do bring a phone, we will also be recommending apps that can restrict access to the device during school hours. This is entirely optional but may provide additional reassurance and help students develop positive digital habits.

For the very small number of students who repeatedly fail to follow the policy, each school has purchased a number of lockable phone pouches as part of our graduated behaviour approach. Students required to use a pouch will place their phone inside it at the start of the school day. The pouch remains locked until the end of the day, with the student keeping the phone in their possession throughout. This allows students to retain their phone for their journey to and from school while ensuring it remains inaccessible during learning time.

Many schools across the country have invested significantly in providing lockable pouches for every student and require all phones to be locked away throughout the day. We believe our approach is more proportionate. It allows us to work in partnership with families by educating young people about responsible phone use while trusting the overwhelming majority of our students to meet our expectations. The lockable pouches will only be used where that trust has been repeatedly broken.

You can read the full Mobile Phone Policy here [Policies - Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust](#).

It is also worth noting that mobile phones are brought onto the school site at the owner's risk. The Academy cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft, damage or malfunction of any personal device brought into school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a calm, focused and safe learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns about the policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Jones
Principal