



Mobile Free Backwell

Frequently asked questions for parents/carers

<p><i>How is the mobile phone policy changing?</i></p>	<p>The current policy states that if a student brings their mobile phone to school, it is switched off and kept in their school bag. This will change to the mobile phone being switched off, placed in a Focus Pouch that is then closed and kept in their school bag.</p>
<p><i>When will students be given a Focus pouch?</i></p>	<p>All students in Years 7-10 will be given a Focus pouch during morning tutor time in the final week of this term w/c 30th March. All students will be given their first pouch free of charge.</p>
<p><i>What if students need to contact a parent during the day? What if school needs to contact parents/carers?</i></p>	<p>As is our current policy, students should go to the Student Services to contact home and parents should phone Main Reception. We have very clear procedures in place for when a student is unwell, as assessed by our First Aid team. Parents/carers will be contacted by our First Aid team.</p>
<p><i>What if my child has a medical need that requires their mobile phone?</i></p>	<p>Your child will be issued with a Velcro pouch to enable them access when they require their mobile phone. This will be confirmed by the parent / carer.</p>
<p><i>My child needs their mobile phone to support their mental health; will they be allowed access to their device?</i></p>	<p>Research shows that mobile phones have a negative impact on mental health and in some cases exacerbate any challenges young people face. Further information is found on the Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents (PAPAYA) website and in the excellent book by Jonathan Haidt titled The Anxious Generation.</p>
<p><i>I have heard that the magnets used on a Focus pouch damage phone.</i></p>	<p>This is not true. You may have heard reports of phones being damaged when in pouches. The pouches are not protective cases and so should be treated with the same care as a phone not in a Focus pouch. Damage can occur if a student drops their pouch on the floor for example, as it would if they dropped their phone on the floor. As pouches should be in bags at all times, we don't anticipate this being an issue as there is no reason to have them out till the end of the school day when unlocking takes place.</p>

<p>Where will the unlocking stations be?</p>	<p>There will be unlocking stations at the following areas of the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In every classroom to be used at the end of the final lesson of the day - Reception and Attendance offices - Mobile unlocking devices will be used on school trips (see below)
<p>If my child leaves school late due to clubs, revision sessions etc. how will they unlock their pouch?</p>	<p>Students will unlock their pouches at the end of period 6 so clubs and matches etc are not impacted.</p>
<p>What happens if my child arrives in school in the morning and their pouch is locked?</p>	<p>When pouches are empty, they should be left unlocked. If an empty pouch is locked, the student will need to unlock their pouch in their tutor room at the start of the session.</p>
<p>What happens if a student forgets their pouch?</p>	<p>If a student leaves their pouch at home, they will be sent to the BSR to leave their phone for the day. They will collect it from the BSR at 15:10.</p>
<p>How will staff know phones are in the pouches? What about smart watches; What happens if they leave a pouch at home; How do we ensure they only have one phone?</p>	<p>During morning tutor time, students will place their pouch on the desk with their phone inside and locked for staff to check each morning. If a student arrives late to school, staff will check the student pouches as they sign in at reception. All wearable technology will be unusable due to the connection to the mobile phone being blocked by the Focus pouch.</p> <p>Spot checks will be carried out by SLT on referral in a range of lessons each week.</p>
<p>What sanction will be incurred if a mobile phone is found on school site outside of a pouch?</p>	<p>Deliberate damage to pouch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal suspension for up to 1 day in the BSR <p>Phone found in a pupil's possession outside of a pouch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone confiscated and must be collected by a parent/carer • Internal suspension for up to 1 day in the BSR in the first instance • Repeated offences will result in external suspension being used for persistent breaches of the school behaviour policy <p>Refusal to hand phone over or complete a phone related sanction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External suspension for 1 day in the first instance <p>Refusal to participate in a spot check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External suspension for 1 day in the first instance
<p>How will after school trips work? E.g. sports fixtures.</p>	<p>We would expect staff to use their professional judgement on trips and we will supply a pouch unlocking device as part of all trip packs if phones are to be kept in pouches for the trip.</p>

<i>Will parents have to replace a lost pouch? Will parents have to replace a pouch that has been damaged intentionally?</i>	Yes. Replacement pouches will be charged via ParentPay at a cost of £20 per pouch. New pouches will be collected from the BSR.
<i>Will parents have to replace a pouch that has been unintentionally damaged?</i>	The devices have a warranty that can be found here
<i>If they cannot use their phone, how can students see their timetable during the school day?</i>	We provide students with a small timetable and a small student planner so they can see their timetable at all times.
<i>Will all classes have working clocks as a lot of students use their phones to tell the time?</i>	Yes.
<i>What about staff use of phones?</i>	We will encourage staff to follow the same mobile phone-free policy around the school, wherever possible. Pastoral staff do use their phones to communicate with one another in emergency situations.
<i>What happens if there is a critical incident during the school day?</i>	Students will be directed to leave school site and will be able to use the unlocking magnets as they leave the classroom. School will contact parents/carers.
<i>Will cover and/or supply teaching staff follow the procedure?</i>	SLT and House Teams are always made aware when there is a cover teacher for a tutor group and will prioritise visiting these tutor groups. As the phones are locked away during the day, there should be no instances of a cover teacher not following procedure during lessons.
<i>How do we know this will have a positive impact?</i>	The research is clear that this will have a positive impact, this includes detailed government research.
<i>When do the students lock the phone away?</i>	Morning routine during tutorial <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student enters their tutor room 2. Student puts their mobile phone and their pouch on their desk 3. Teacher checks the mobile phone and pouch are on the desk 4. Student puts the mobile phone in the pouch and clips it shut 5. Student will turn their pouch upside down to show their pouch is now locked 6. Student puts their pouch in their bag
<i>When do student unlock their pouches at the end of the day?</i>	On leaving the classroom – there will be a lock in every classroom to do this. A nice orderly exit at the end of the day
<i>How do students lock their phones in their pouch on an assembly day?</i>	The students will lock their phone in their pouch on entering the assembly hall. This will be checked by the Head of House and tutor.

Please see the School Mobile Device policy for further information.