

St Monica's RC High School



Mobile Phone Policy 2026-2027

Date policy last reviewed: Sept 2026

Signed by:

Mr D Breen

Headteacher

30th September 2026

Date: _____

Mrs C Parkinson

Chair of governors

30th September 2026

Date: _____

1. Rationale

At St Monica's RC High School, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and purposeful environment in which pupils can learn, develop positive relationships and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

St Monica's is a **mobile phone-free school**. We recognise that mobile phones are an important part of modern life; however, during the school day they can create unnecessary distractions from learning and can negatively affect social interaction and relationships between pupils.

Our mobile phone policy is designed to allow pupils to bring a mobile phone to and from school, whilst ensuring that phones do not interrupt learning or school life.

2. Expectations

All pupils who bring a mobile phone to school must use their school-issued lockable phone pouch.

On arrival at school, pupils must:

- place their mobile phone inside their allocated pouch;
- securely lock the pouch; and
- keep the locked pouch with them throughout the school day.

Mobile phones must remain secured in the pouch for the entirety of the school day.

Pupils must not access or use their mobile phone until the end of the school day, when they may unlock their pouch at one of the designated unlocking points as they leave the school site.

3. Checking and Supporting Compliance

The school will undertake appropriate checks to support the consistent implementation of this policy.

Where a pupil arrives at school and states that they do not have a mobile phone with them, they may be asked to undertake a brief check using the school's handheld detection equipment.

The school may also carry out occasional random checks of pupils using handheld detection equipment as part of its routine approach to supporting compliance with the mobile phone policy.

These checks are intended to ensure that the policy is applied consistently and fairly across the school.

4. Responsibility for the Pouch

Each pupil is responsible for their allocated pouch and should bring it to school every day.

Pouches remain the property of the school and should be looked after appropriately. Pupils must not deliberately damage, tamper with or attempt to bypass the locking mechanism.

Where a pouch is lost or deliberately damaged, a replacement pouch must be purchased from school. The cost of the replacement will be added to the parent/carer's Arbor account.

5. Forgotten Pouches

If a pupil brings a mobile phone to school but has forgotten their pouch, they must hand their phone in on arrival at school.

The phone will be stored securely in a school office for the duration of the school day and can be collected from the pupil's Head of Year at the end of the day.

6. Breaches of the Policy

Examples of breaches of this policy include:

- having a mobile phone outside of a locked pouch during the school day;
- using a mobile phone during the school day without permission;
- deliberately damaging or tampering with a pouch;
- attempting to bypass the locking mechanism;
- failing to hand a phone in when attending school without a pouch; or
- refusing to follow a reasonable instruction from a member of staff in relation to this policy.

Where a pupil is found to be in possession of a mobile phone which is not secured within their pouch, or otherwise breaches this policy, the mobile phone must be handed to a member of staff.

A sanction will be issued in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. The sanction applied will depend upon the circumstances and nature of the breach, including whether there have been previous breaches of the policy.

7. Emergencies and Contact with Home

If a pupil needs to contact home during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff. Appropriate arrangements will then be made for contact with parents/carers.

Similarly, if a parent/carer needs to contact their child urgently during the school day, they should contact the school office.

This ensures that important or emergency communication can still take place without pupils needing unrestricted access to their mobile phones.

8. Medical Needs and Reasonable Adjustments

We recognise that a small number of pupils may require access to a mobile phone because of a medical condition, disability, SEND or another individual need.

Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be agreed between the school, pupil and parent/carer. Any agreed adjustment will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff.

9. Trips, Visits and Off-Site Activities

The expectations within this policy apply during the normal school day. Arrangements for school trips, residential visits, sporting fixtures and other off-site activities will be determined by the member of staff leading the activity and communicated to pupils and parents/carers where necessary.

10. Staff Use of Mobile Phones

Staff have an important role in modelling the behaviours and expectations we promote for our pupils. Staff should therefore be mindful of their own use of mobile phones during the school day.

Personal mobile phones should only be used in private areas where pupils are not present, such as staffrooms, offices or empty classrooms. Staff should not ordinarily use personal mobile phones in corridors, communal areas, playgrounds or other areas where pupils are present.

There may be occasions where a member of staff needs to use a mobile phone as part of their professional duties or in response to an urgent or exceptional circumstance. In these situations, staff should exercise appropriate professional judgement.

By modelling responsible and appropriate mobile phone use, staff support the school's commitment to maintaining a calm, purposeful and phone-free environment for pupils.

11. Partnership with Parents and Carers

The success of our mobile phone-free approach relies upon the support of pupils, staff and parents/carers.

We ask parents and carers to support the school by reinforcing the expectation that phones remain secured throughout the school day and by contacting the school office rather than their child directly when communication is required.

Our aim is simple: to provide pupils with a school day in which they can focus on learning, interact positively with one another and be fully present as members of the St Monica's community.