

Emerson Park Academy



School Mobile Phone Policy

Reviewed: January 2026

Next review: January 2029

School Mobile Phone Policy

Policy Statement

This policy outlines the expectations and procedures regarding mobile phone use within school. The aim is to create a calm, focused, and safe learning environment that supports student wellbeing, academic achievement, and positive behaviour.

The school operates as a phone-free environment during the school day. While students may bring mobile phones to school for use during their journey to and from school, phones must not be accessed during the school day unless authorised by a member of staff.

Rationale

Research and experience across schools have shown that unrestricted mobile phone use can negatively affect:

- Concentration and learning
- Student wellbeing and mental health
- Social interaction and behaviour
- Attendance and engagement
- Assessment integrity and online safety

This policy has been introduced to reduce distractions and help students remain fully engaged in lessons and school activities.

Phone-Free Environment

The school is a phone-free environment during the school day.

Students are not permitted to:

- Use mobile phones during lessons
- Use mobile phones during social times or breaktimes
- Access social media, games, or messaging apps during school hours
- Record, photograph, or film other students or staff without permission
- Use phones during assessments or examinations

Phones must remain secured in the school-approved pouch system throughout the school day.

Mobile Phone Pouch System

To support this policy, students will use a lockable phone pouch system.

Procedure:

- Students bring their mobile phone to school switched off or on silent.
- On arrival, students place their phone inside the lockable pouch.
- The pouch remains in the student's possession throughout the day.
- Phones may only be unlocked at the end of the school day using designated unlocking stations or by authorised staff.
- In emergencies, school staff may unlock the pouch when appropriate.

This system allows students to travel with their phones while ensuring they are not used during learning time.

Parent Communication

Parents and carers may continue to contact students before and after school hours using their personal devices.

If urgent communication is required during the school day:

- Parents should contact the school office.
- Students may request access to school phones through pastoral staff where necessary.

Responsibilities

Students are expected to follow the phone pouch procedures, keep their pouch safe and undamaged, and respect the phone-free expectations of the school.

Parents and carers are expected to support the school's phone-free approach and encourage responsible mobile phone use.

Staff are responsible for consistently implementing the policy and supporting students during the transition to the phone-free environment.

Lost or Damaged Pouches

There is no cost for the initial issue of the phone pouch. However, charges may apply where a pouch is deliberately damaged, lost, or repeatedly forgotten. Replacement costs will be communicated to parents and carers.

Breaches of the Policy

Failure to follow the mobile phone policy may result in confiscation of the mobile phone, parental contact, detentions or sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy, and further intervention for repeated breaches.

Serious misuse of mobile phones, including cyberbullying, recording others without consent, or cheating in assessments, may result in more significant sanctions.

Equality and Safeguarding

The school recognises that some students may require access to a mobile device for medical or safeguarding reasons. Reasonable adjustments will be considered in consultation with parents, carers, and relevant professionals.

Monitoring and Review

The school will review this policy regularly to ensure it remains effective and continues to support student learning, wellbeing, and safety.

Conclusion

The school believes that a phone-free environment will help students focus more effectively, improve social interaction, and contribute positively to wellbeing and academic success. The school appreciates the support of parents, carers, students, and staff in ensuring the successful implementation of this policy.