Pupil Mobile Phone Use Policy – Updated September 2026.

In June 2026 the Government published statutory guidance on the use of Mobile Phones in schools Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK to support all schools, including special schools, *'to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils, whatever their background, can learn and thrive'* (DFE 2024). At Springfields we are committed to ensuring our school environment is safe, calm, distraction free and enables pupils to focus on their education and achieve their potential. The Government recommendations are supported by international research which evidences the benefits of creating a 'Mobile Phone Free' school environment.

Recognising that many of our pupils come to school on transport or may have long journeys it would be unrealistic and inappropriate for us to prohibit mobile phones from coming to site in line with Government recommendation *a) No mobile phones on the school premises*. This policy describes how we implement other aspects of the Government recommendations adapted the age and developmental stage of pupils across the school.

Reception – Year 6 - Expectations regards Mobile Phone, Tablets and other Electronic Devices:

Pupils in Reception, Year 1,2,3,4,5,6 will hand in Mobile Phones, Tablets and/or other Electronic Devices (e.g. Nintendo Switch) to their Classteacher on arrival at school. This will be kept in a secure location and will not be accessed during the school day.

This is in line with the Government recommendation *b) Mobile phone handed in on arrival* (DFE 2024)

Year 7 – Year 11 - Expectations regards Mobile Phone, Tablets and other Electronic Devices:

Pupils in Year 7,8,9,10,11 will be asked to place their mobile phone in a 'Yondr' pouch on arrival at school. Pupils will not be able to use their phones once in the 'Yondr' pouch. At the end of the day the 'Yondr' pouch will be unlocked using the unlocking base from the teacher and pupils will be able to take their phones home.

This is in line with the Government recommendation *c) Mobile phones kept in secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day* (DFE 2024)

How a 'Yondr' Pouch Works:

ARRIVAL

Upon entering the phone-free space, your phone will be placed inside a Yondr pouch.

SECURE

Once inside the phone-free area, the pouch is locked. You will maintain possession of your phone at all times.

OPEN

To use your phone at any time, step outside the phone-free zone and tap your pouch on an unlocking base.

Breaking the school policy:

If the school policy on mobile phone use, as described above is broken the pupil's device will be confiscated and handed into the school office. Parent/carers will be notified and requested to collect the device from the school office. The device will not be handed back to the pupil.

This is in line with the recommendation on page 9 of the Government guidance document. Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK

Collective Responsibility:

The Government guidance clearly sets out the expectations for staff, pupils and parents which are adopted by Springfields:

Pupils:

- To follow the schools mobile phone policy
- To gain an understanding of the risks associated with having a mobile phone

Staff:

- To implement the schools mobile phone policy consistently

Parents:

- To support the schools mobile phone policy
- To direct all communications to their child through the school office during the school day

For further information please reference the Government guidance Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK

Adaptations and Reasonable Adjustments:

Where a pupil has a medical need or other exceptional circumstance adaptations or reasonable adjustments to the policy may be required. These must be agreed in writing by the Headteacher, Nicola Whitcombe and will be considered on an individual basis.

Signed:

Head of School: Sam Cottrell **Date: September 2026**