



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

DRT/JE

03 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an update to our mobile phone arrangements, which will come into effect from **Monday 08 December 2025.**

From this date, all pupils will be asked to place their mobile phone in a secure pouch at the start of the school day. These pouches remain with the pupil but are locked and can only be opened at the end of the school day.

Our rationale for doing this is clear:

- **Support safeguarding:** Limiting phone use during the school day reduces the risk of issues such as online bullying, inappropriate content sharing, and misuse of cameras on site.
- **Promote wellbeing:** By limiting access to phones during the school day, we are helping pupils to build positive relationships face-to-face, reduce screen time, and protect them from the pressures of social media.
- **Reduce distractions:** Mobile phones can disrupt learning and reduce focus in lessons. We want every child to have the best chance to engage fully with their education.
- **Ensure consistency and fairness:** The system ensures that expectations are the same for all pupils and that staff time is focused on teaching and supporting pupils, rather than monitoring mobile phone use.

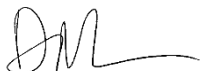
We are not banning mobile phones altogether. We understand their importance in terms of travel, safety, and communication with parents **before and after school.** Pupils will continue to be able to bring their phones into school, but they will remain in their pouch until the school day ends. As you are aware, the current school rules say that mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight at all times, so the new policy helps to support that and strengthen our culture of safeguarding.

Our decision has been made in the best interests of our pupils, and by evidence from schools nationally where this approach has had an extremely positive impact on learning, wellbeing, and behaviour.

Please note that, if a pupil is seen with a mobile phone and it isn't in their pouch, this will be confiscated and taken to the main office, as is currently the case. In an update to our procedures, **confiscated phones must now be collected by parents** at the end of the school day, not by the pupil. There will also be a consequence issued, in line with our behaviour policy.

Thank you in advance for your support as we work together to ensure that our school remains a safe, calm, and focused learning environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr D R Thompson
Head Teacher

Mobile Phone Pouches – Parent FAQs

Why is the school introducing phone pouches?

Across the country, schools are reporting increasing concerns about mobile phone use among young people. Issues such as social media pressures, online conflict, distraction in class and inappropriate use during the school day are now recognised safeguarding risks. We want every child to have the best chance to learn without distraction.

Are mobile phones banned?

No. Pupils can still bring their phones to school for use on the way to and from school. The pouches allow phones to be kept securely during the day.

What if I need to contact my child urgently or my child needs to contact me?

You can continue to call the school office, and we will pass the message on. If your child needs to contact you, they can do so via the office or their Head of Learning/Intervention Manager.

What if my child has a medical need that requires phone access?

If your child has a specific medical requirement, please contact us.

What if a pupil forgets their pouch?

The pupil will place their phone in the secure lockable box during Morning Meeting. It will be stored safely in the school office and collected at 3:00pm.

What happens if the pouch is lost or damaged?

Pouches are robust and designed for daily use. It is your child's responsibility to look after the pouch provided.

Where will pupils keep their phone pouches?

During the day the pouch will be kept in school bags. At the end of the day, it can be kept in a learning pack or school bag. We are asking pupils not to lock their pouch after retrieving their phone at the end of the day, so they are ready for the next morning.

How are the pouches unlocked?

At one of the unlocking stations around the school site.

What happens if my child doesn't put their phone in the pouch?

This would be defiance and would follow our behaviour policy on defiance.

Will this really make a difference?

Schools that have introduced phone pouches report big improvements in concentration, wellbeing, and behaviour. We want our pupils to benefit from the same positive impact.

When does this start?

The system will begin from **Monday 08 December**. We will show pupils how to use the pouches during Morning Meetings and mastery.

Quick Reference Guide

New Phone Pouches

From **Monday 08 December**, all pupils will be using phone pouches in school.

Why?

- Support safeguarding
- Reduce distractions to learning
- Promote wellbeing
- Ensure Consistency and Fairness
- Have better outcomes for children

How it works (pupils)

- Bring your phone as normal.
- At the start of the day, place it in your pouch.
- The pouch locks and stays with you.
- At the end of the day, you can unlock it at an unlocking station.
- Simple!

Need to contact home or your child?

- This will be done through year teams or the office.
- Parents can also ring the office if they need to reach their child(ren).

Together, we're creating a calmer, safer, happier school for everyone.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT