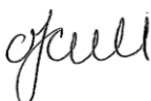
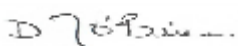




St Gabriel's RC High School

Mobile Phone Policy



Time of review: 1 st October 2026	Time of next review: 1 September 2027
Author: 	
Signed	Date: 08/10/2026
Headteacher: Mr Braithwaite	
Signed:	Date: 3rd October 2026
	
Approved by the Local Governing Body	
	
Signed by Chair of Governors:	Date: 08/10/2026

Our Mission Statement

At St Gabriel's, we are an **inclusive Catholic family** who embrace diverse identities, faiths and beliefs. We strive to use our God-given talents to **serve** others and to **succeed**. The Lord is our **strength**, which inspires us to make positive contributions to our school community and be valued members of our global society.



1. Rationale

At St Gabriel's RC High School, we are committed to providing a calm, safe and purposeful environment in which all pupils can learn, develop positive relationships and make the most of the opportunities available to them. While we recognise that mobile phones are an important part of modern life and that pupils may need to bring them to and from school, St Gabriel's is a mobile phone-free school during the school day. Mobile phones can be a significant distraction from learning, formation and personal development and can negatively impact pupils' social interaction, relationships and wellbeing. Their inappropriate or irresponsible use may also compromise the safety and wellbeing of individuals and the wider school community. Our policy therefore aims to ensure that pupils remain focused on their learning, maintain high standards of conduct and behaviour, develop positive interpersonal and communication skills, and contribute to a safe, respectful and purposeful school environment. To support these aims, strict regulations apply to the possession and use of mobile phones during the school day, and all pupils and their parents/carers are expected to understand and adhere to these requirements.

2. Expectations

Any pupil who brings a mobile phone onto the school site must use their school-issued, lockable mobile phone pouch. On arrival at school, pupils are required to place their mobile phone inside their allocated pouch and securely lock it. The locked pouch must remain in the pupil's possession throughout the school day.

Mobile phones must remain securely stored in the pouch and must not be accessed or used at any time during the school day. At the end of the school day, pupils may unlock their pouches only at 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 and effective 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, which can include using the school's handheld detection equipment.

The school may also conduct occasional random checks of pupils, which could include using handheld detection equipment as part of its routine approach to supporting compliance with the mobile phone policy. Such checks are intended to ensure that the policy is implemented consistently, fairly and proportionately across the school.

4. Responsibility for the Pouch

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

Pouches remain the property of the school and must be treated with care. Pupils must not deliberately damage, tamper with or attempt to interfere with or bypass the locking mechanism.

If a pouch is lost or deliberately damaged, a replacement must be purchased from the school. The cost of the replacement pouch 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, tampering with or attempting to interfere with a pouch;
- attempting to bypass the locking mechanism;
- failing to hand in a mobile phone 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 that is not secured within their pouch, or where they otherwise breach 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 will be proportionate to the circumstances and nature of the breach and will take into account any previous breaches of the policy.

7. Emergencies and Contact with Home

If a pupil needs to contact a parent/carer during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff. The school will make appropriate arrangements to facilitate contact where necessary.

If a parent/carer needs to contact their child urgently during the school day, they should contact the school office. The school will ensure that the pupil is informed and that appropriate arrangements are made.

These arrangements ensure that essential and emergency communication can take place promptly and appropriately, without pupils requiring unrestricted access to their mobile phones during the school day.

8. Medical Needs and Reasonable Adjustments

The school recognises that some pupils may require access to a mobile phone due to a medical condition, disability, special educational need or disability (SEND), or other individual circumstances.

Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be considered and agreed in consultation with the pupil and their parent/carer. Any agreed adjustments will be recorded and communicated to relevant staff to ensure they are implemented consistently and appropriately.

9. Trips, Visits and Off-Site Activities

The expectations set out in 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 responsible for the activity.

Any specific arrangements regarding the use or storage of mobile phones will be communicated to pupils and parents/carers in advance where appropriate.

10. Staff Use of Mobile Phones



Staff have an important role in modelling the behaviours and expectations promoted by the school. Staff are therefore expected to exercise appropriate professional judgement in relation to their use of personal 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 when a member of staff needs to use a mobile phone for professional purposes or in response to an urgent or exceptional circumstance. In such situations, staff should exercise appropriate professional judgement and ensure that their use of the device is proportionate to the circumstances.

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 the school's mobile phone-free approach relies on the support and cooperation of pupils, staff, parents and carers.

Parents and carers are asked to support the school by reinforcing the expectation that mobile phones remain securely stored throughout the school day. Where contact with their child is necessary during the school day, parents and carers should contact the school office rather than their child directly.

Working together in this way helps to ensure that the policy is applied consistently and supports a calm, focused and positive learning environment for all pupils.