

## **Mobile Phone Expectations (including smartwatches)**

Our school Behaviour Policy prohibits the use of mobile phones during the school day. This plays an important role in the safeguarding of students and helps to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of smartphones on young people's mental, physical and academic wellbeing.

Students in Years 7-11 are issued with a mobile phone pouch and are required to place their mobile phone in this for the duration of the school day. The pouch safely locks the phone away and students keep this pouch in their school bag. The pouch remains the property of the school. Parents/carers can find out more information using this <u>FAQs link</u>.

Students are expected to store their phone in the pouch before they enter the school site and have access to unlocking stations as they exit the school site at the end of the day. (Please note, there is no expectation for students to use pouches for evening based activities at the school after 6pm).

Students are responsible for bringing their mobile phone pouch to school every day as essential equipment. If a student forgets their mobile phone pouch, they will have to hand in their phone for collection at the end of the school day. Please see our <u>Behaviour Policy</u> for information regarding sanctions should students transgress these expectations.

From September 2026, students joining Ashlyns in Year 7 will not be permitted to bring a smartphone to school. Students may bring a basic feature phone. These will continue to be stored in the school's phone pouch system during the day.

Please rest assured it is always possible for your child to contact you in case of an emergency or change of arrangements. Should you need to communicate urgently with your child, please phone the school office who will pass the message on as required.

Students in the Sixth Form are not issued with phone pouches, but are only able to use phones during break and lunchtimes, in designated Sixth Form areas.