

15 June 2026

## Mobile Phone Procedures – Outcome of Consultation and September Implementation

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking all parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent consultation regarding mobile phone procedures. We were extremely pleased with the level of engagement and the thoughtful feedback that was provided.

Following a detailed analysis of all responses received, it is clear that the majority of parents support the school's proposal to remove access to mobile phones during the school day. As a result, we will be implementing a mobile phone collection system for all students from September 2026.

### Why are we making this change?

This decision has not been taken lightly. Our priority is always to create the safest, calmest and most productive environment possible for our students. The feedback received from parents highlighted several key benefits of removing access to mobile phones during the school day. The most common themes identified were:

- Improved focus and engagement in lessons
- Better behaviour across school
- Reduced bullying, online conflict and social media-related issues
- Improved student wellbeing
- Stronger relationships and social interaction between students and staff
- Reduced safeguarding concerns
- Reduced screen time and healthier habits
- Increased concentration and participation in learning

We know that students achieve their best when they are fully engaged in school life and free from the distractions and pressures that mobile phones can often bring. Furthermore, our approach reflects the national change in statutory legislation as follows:

*“The Department for Education (DfE) expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.”*

Further information regarding national guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

Across Burnley, three of the five secondary schools already operate a system where mobile phones are collected from students each day. From September, we will become the fourth school in the town to adopt this approach.

## What system will we be using?

Following consultation feedback, we have decided to implement a Form Tutor Collection System. This option received the strongest level of support from parents and carers and has the additional benefit of not creating any financial cost for families.

### Morning Collection

Each morning during registration, students will hand their mobile phone to their form tutor. Every student will have their own individual section within a secure tutor locker/storage unit. Phones will be stored safely throughout the school day and will not be accessible to students.

### End of Day Collection

At the end of the school day, students will return to their form group for approximately five minutes. During this time, form tutors will supervise the safe return of phones to students before they leave the school site.

### Students Leaving School During the Day

We recognise that some students may have planned appointments during the school day. Where this is the case, students should hand their phone in at the attendance office on arrival. Appropriate arrangements will then be made to ensure the phone is returned before the student leaves the site. Where students need to leave unexpectedly during the school day, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year will facilitate the return of their phone before departure.

### Medical Needs and Exceptional Circumstances

We recognise that a small number of students may need to use mobile phone technology during lessons to support specific medical conditions. Prior to lesson implementation, families of these students will be consulted, and appropriate arrangements will be put in place.

### Ensuring Consistency

To ensure the system operates fairly and consistently for all students, the school will be carrying out checks throughout the year. Students who fail to hand in a phone during morning registration may be subject to a screening check using a handheld detection wand. In addition, random checks may be undertaken to ensure that students have not retained a second mobile phone after handing one device in. These measures are not intended to be punitive but are necessary to ensure that the procedures are applied consistently and effectively across the school.

### Consequences for Non-Compliance

It is important that all students understand the expectations from September. Where a student is found in possession of a mobile phone during the school day without authorised exemption, the following procedures will apply:

**First occurrence:** The phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day. The student will be placed in break and lunch detention. The phone will be returned at the end of the day.

**Second occurrence:** The phone will be confiscated and kept securely overnight, with parents required to collect it the following day. The student will also spend the day in reflection. Students will be issued with a temporary school phone that includes key contact numbers, and where necessary, bus fare will be provided if a student's bus pass is stored on their phone.

Failure to comply with the confiscation process will result in a suspension.

### **Addressing a Common Concern**

One of the most frequently raised concerns during the consultation was how students would contact home during the school day if required. Parents and carers can be reassured that this has always been, and will continue to be, managed

through the school. Telephones are available throughout the school, and students who need to contact home for legitimate reasons will continue to be able to do so. Likewise, if parents need to contact their child urgently during the school day, they should do so through the school reception team, who will ensure that messages are passed on promptly.

### **Looking Ahead**

We recognise that this represents a significant change for many students. However, schools across the country that have implemented similar systems report that students adapt remarkably quickly. What initially feels like a major change soon becomes a normal part of the school day. We are confident that this decision will bring substantial benefits for our students, including improved concentration, stronger engagement with learning, better behaviour, reduced safeguarding concerns, healthier social interactions and an overall improvement in wellbeing.

Ultimately, this change is about creating the best possible environment for young people to learn, develop and succeed.

### **Further Questions**

Should you have any significant concerns or wish to discuss individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to speak with parents and carers directly, either by telephone, email or through a meeting at school.

Telephone: 01282 682300 extension number 11048

Email: [lpennington@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:lpennington@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk)

Thank you once again for your support, feedback and partnership throughout this consultation process. We look forward to working together to ensure a smooth and successful implementation from September.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Pennington  
Senior Assistant Headteacher



Think BIG



SUCCEED TOGETHER

Email: [admin@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.shuttleworthcollege.org](http://www.shuttleworthcollege.org)  
Twitter: @Shuttle\_College  
Instagram: shuttle\_college