

14 May 2026

Mobile Phone Procedures Consultation – September Implementation

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Shuttleworth College, we are fully committed to providing a calm, safe, focused and disruption-free learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Over recent years, schools nationally have seen a significant increase in the impact that mobile phones and social media are having on students during the school day. Whilst we remain a “phone-free” school, we are aware that some students continue to access mobile phones during the day in areas where staff supervision is more limited, such as toilets.

In line with the government’s statutory ban on phones in schools, we will be strengthening our procedures from September 2026 to ensure that mobile phones are not accessible to students during the school day. This change will apply to all students and is intended to further support positive behaviour, wellbeing, safeguarding and high standards of learning across the school community.

Before implementation, we would like to consult fully with parents and carers regarding the method we adopt.

Why are we making this change?

Research and experience across schools nationally continue to demonstrate the negative impact that unrestricted mobile phone access can have on young people during the school day. By removing access to phones during school hours, schools commonly report:

- Improved concentration and engagement in lessons.
- Better academic progress and classroom participation.
- Reduced distractions and disruption to learning.
- Improved social interaction and communication between students.
- Fewer incidents of online bullying and social media conflict during the school day.
- Reduced anxiety linked to social media and online pressures.
- Improved attendance and punctuality to lessons.
- Fewer students leaving lessons or requesting unnecessary toilet visits to access phones.
- Increased safeguarding and reduced opportunities for inappropriate filming, messaging or online activity.
- Healthier habits around screen time and digital wellbeing.

As educators and parents, we all share a common goal: ensuring students are fully present, engaged in their education and able to develop healthy relationships, resilience and positive habits. Our priority is not to punish students, but to create the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing and personal development.

Proposed Options for September

Following research into best practice used successfully in schools across the country, we are consulting on the following two approaches.

Option 1 – Daily Collection by Form Tutors

Students would hand their mobile phone to their form tutor during morning registration each day. Phones would then be securely stored in a locked container throughout the school day. Students would collect their phone at the end of the day before leaving school. This system ensures that phones are completely inaccessible during lessons and social times.

Option 2 – Lockable Phone Pouch System

Students would purchase a secure lockable pouch at an estimated cost of approximately £15–£20. Each morning, students would be supervised placing their phone into the pouch, which would then be locked for the duration of the school day. Students would keep the pouch with them but would not be able to access the phone during school hours. At the end of the school day, unlocking stations located around the school site would allow students to unlock the pouch before leaving. This system is already used successfully in several schools and educational settings nationally and allows students to retain possession of their device without being able to use it during the day. However, it is costly for families.

Consultation with Parents and Carers

We value the views of our families and would like parents and carers to help shape the implementation of this important change. Please complete the consultation form using the link below to share any comments, questions or considerations, provide feedback regarding implementation and support, and indicate which option you feel would work best.

Consultation Form: [Mobile Phone Procedures Consultation – Parent & Carer Feedback – Fill in form](#)

The consultation period will remain open until Friday 22nd May. Following consultation with parents, students and staff, the school will confirm the final procedure and provide full details regarding implementation before the end of the summer term.

Important Information

Students who need to contact home during the school day will continue to be able to do so through the school office, as has always been the case. Likewise, parents and carers can contact students through the school reception in an emergency.

We appreciate that many parents wish their child to carry a phone for travel arrangements before and after school, and these new procedures will continue to allow students to bring phones onto the school site safely while ensuring they are not used during the school day.

We are aware that a limited number of students must have access to their mobile phone to allow them to appropriately manage medical conditions i.e. students with diabetes who use continuous glucose monitoring with a sensor linked to their mobile phone to monitor blood sugar level. Arrangements will be made to ensure these students are still able to carry and access their mobile phone throughout the school day.

We are confident that this change will have a positive impact on behaviour, wellbeing, safeguarding and learning across the school community and we thank you in advance for your support and partnership.

Additional information – Changes to the school's detention system

From Monday 18th May, all student detentions will take place during breaktime or lunchtime. As a result, after-school detentions will no longer be used.

This change has been made to allow Heads of Year and members of staff to be available for meetings with parents and carers after the school day. Due to the demands and responsibilities of the school day, staff are required to remain fully available to supervise lessons, support students, and ensure the smooth and safe running of the school. As a result, meetings with parents and carers will no longer be able to take place during the school day and will instead need to be arranged after school hours.

By moving detentions to break and lunchtime, we can continue maintaining high expectations of behaviour whilst also improving opportunities for effective communication and partnership working with families outside of teaching time.

We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing our school expectations and values with your child. Should you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your child's Head of Year in the usual way.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Pennington
Senior Assistant Headteacher



Think BIG



SUCCEED
TOGETHER

Email: admin@shuttleworth.lancs.sch.uk
Web: www.shuttleworthcollege.org
Twitter: @Shuttle_College
Instagram: shuttle_college