

## Update on phones at school from September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Portsmouth Academy, we want all students to feel safe, happy and able to learn well. We know phones can be useful, but they can also distract from lessons and affect focus, friendships and wellbeing. Our aim is to help students fully engage in learning, build positive relationships and grow in confidence without unnecessary distractions.

For this reason, The Portsmouth Academy will become a mobile phone free school during the school day from September 2026.

This approach reflects a growing move across the city, with several schools in Portsmouth introducing similar phone-free environments to help students focus, feel safe, and fully engage in their education.

### What does a mobile phone free Portsmouth Academy mean?

Students can still bring a phone to school if they need to.

- When students arrive, phones must be turned off or on silent.
- In morning line-ups, students will put their phone into a safe pouch. Staff will help with this.
- The pouch stays with the student all day, but they cannot open it.
- In every lesson, the pouch must be placed on the desk.
- At the end of the day, students can unlock their pouch before they leave school.
- If a student needs their phone for an important reason, like a medical need, staff can unlock it for them.
- Students who need their phone for medical reasons will get a special medical pouch.
- At the end of the day, students must put their empty pouch in the box by the gate. They must not take pouches home.
- Students must bring a bag big enough to keep the pouch safe. They should not carry the pouch in their hands.

These rules help keep everyone safe and make sure learning is not disturbed.

### **Why is this happening at The Portsmouth Academy?**

This change is designed to improve focus in lessons, support stronger outcomes, encourage positive friendships and communication, and promote overall wellbeing, while creating a calm and purposeful school environment. We are confident this will have a positive impact for students, including increased engagement in lessons and improved behaviour.

We understand that some students may require access to their phone for medical or individual reasons. Where this applies, we will work with families to agree suitable arrangements. Students who require their phones for medical reasons will be given a medical pouch by staff.

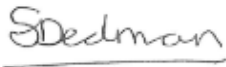
This decision aligns with national guidance and reflects what we believe is right for our students and school community. Your views are important to us, and we welcome your feedback using the link below:

[The Portsmouth Academy – Mobile Phone-Free School Feedback Form – Fill in form](#)

We will continue to share further details ahead of implementation. A dedicated FAQ section will also be available on the school website to provide further guidance and updates soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us create a positive and focused learning environment for every student.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Dedman, Headteacher  
The Portsmouth Academy