



Archbishop Beck Catholic College

Mobile Phone Policy

(Revised June 2026)

At Archbishop Beck Catholic College, we recognise that mobile phones, including smart phones, are a part of everyday life. However, in January 2026, the DfE released new guidance on mobile phones in the educational setting.

Our policy aim is to set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for students, staff, parent's and volunteers. It will work in alignment to support the College's other policies, especially those related to child protection and behaviour.

The policy also aims to address some of the challenges posed by mobile phones in educational settings, such as:

- Risks to child protection
- Impact on mental health
- Over reliance on mobile technology
- Distractions that it can create
- Impact on learning in the classroom
- Reduced physical socialisation
- Risk of theft, loss or damage.

Roles and responsibilities

Staff

All staff (including teachers, support staff and supply staff) are responsible for enforcing this policy and be role models across the College in usage of mobile phones.

Visitors, or anyone else otherwise engaged by the school, must alert a member of staff if they witness, or aware of, a breach of this policy.

Staff are expected to model expected behaviour and set a good example to the students at the College. Therefore, it is inappropriate for staff to make or receive calls, or send texts, whilst students are present/during contact time. Use of mobile phones is to be restricted to non-contact time, and to areas of the College where students are not present.

There may be rare circumstances in which it is appropriate for a member of staff to have their phone during contact time. For instance:

- For emergency contact by their child, or their child's school.
- In the case of acutely ill dependents or family members.

Use of mobile phones by students

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used, seen or turned on in the college site.

They must not be seen from 'door to door' – from when students arrive in student services at the start of the day until the final bell goes at the end of the college day.

1. Phones must be switched off and not just put on silent.
2. Avoid sharing your contact details with people you do not know, and do not share other people's contact details without their consent.
3. Do not share your phone's passwords or access codes with anyone else.
4. Do not use your phone to intimidate or harass anyone. This is either via: text/WhatsApp, social media platforms or email.
5. Do not use your phone to send or receive anything that maybe criminal. For instance, drugs, weapons or criminality or sexual exploitive material.
- 6. If a member of staff has reason to believe you are in breach of our mobile phone policy (e.g. not switched off inside your bag), staff have the right to search you and use a wand scanner to detect the mobile phone.**
- 7. You must comply with a request by a member of staff to hand over your mobile phone if it is used, seen, or is heard. Refusal to comply is a breach of the school's behaviour policy and will be dealt with accordingly.**
- 8. Students who refuse to cooperate will be immediately placed into Reflection for 2 periods, where SS will contact home to gain support from home for a student to hand in their phone. If after that call a child still fails to hand over their mobile phone, it will be an immediate 0.5 day official FTE.**

Sanctions

The table below outlines the process and sanctions, should a mobile phone be used or seen.

1 st Confiscation	Phone will be placed in student services. Student will undertake a 30-minute mobile phone detention. Parents/carers will be notified by text.
2 nd Confiscation	Parent/carers must collect mobile phone from the College. 1 hour detention with SLT Parents/carers contacted by phone.
3 rd Confiscation	Parent/carers must collect from the college. Student no longer permitted to bring their mobile phone onto the College site. 1-day internal exclusion. Parent/carers contacted by phone.

4 th Confiscation	<p>1 day FTE (Fixed Term Exclusion).</p> <p>Parent/Carers attend meeting with Progress Manager and a member of SLT.</p> <p>Student no longer permitted to bring mobile phone onto the College site.</p> <p>Will have to be wand scanned on arrival, to check that student does not have mobile phone.</p>
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Schools are permitted to confiscate phones from students under sections 91 and 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/section/91>

Safeguarding

Certain types of conduct, bullying or harassment can be classified as criminal conduct. The College takes such conduct extremely seriously and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate. Such conduct includes, but it is not limited to:

- Sexting
- Threats of violence or assault
- Abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone on the basis of someone's ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

Staff must refrain from giving their personal contact details to parents or students, including connecting through social media and messaging apps. Staff can use some platforms to disseminate information that supports both teaching and learning.

The College takes a strong stance on any misuse of a mobile phone. The college will not tolerate humiliation or abuse of any other person either in person or online via social media, we would not expect parents/carers to become involved in this either.

If parents/carers need to contact your child urgently throughout the College Day, please contact Student Services who will ensure urgent messages are dealt with.

If your child urgently needs to contact home, we have facilities to do this on site at Student Services at break or lunchtime. A student who uses their mobile phone to contact home, will be seen as an infringement on the mobile phone policy and a sanction will there on follow.

The College accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on college premises or transport, during visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from the College.