



The **Emmbrook** School

Mobile Phone Protocols September 2026

For the purposes of this policy, mobile phones include smartwatches and other personal smart devices that can send or receive messages, notifications, images, audio or video.

In line with the Department for Education's updated guidance and our commitment to maintaining a calm, focused learning environment, The Emmbrook School will continue to operate as a mobile phone-free school from September 2026.

We are extremely proud that the overwhelming majority of our students have embraced this approach since its introduction in September 2025, consistently demonstrating maturity, responsibility and respect for our expectations by keeping phones switched off and out of sight throughout the school day. Their positive engagement has shown the benefits of disconnecting from technology and reconnecting with learning, friendships and the wider school community.

As a result of this success, we have chosen to continue placing trust in our students rather than introducing phone pouches or lock boxes. Students in Years 7–11 may continue to carry a phone for safe travel to and from school, but phones must remain switched off and stored in their bags from the moment students enter the site until they leave at the end of the day. Consequences will apply for the small minority who do not meet these expectations, ensuring that the positive culture established by our students is maintained for all. Any mobile phone or smart device that is seen, heard or used during the school day will be confiscated. The school reserves the right to search for and confiscate devices in accordance with DfE guidance. Sanctions for misuse will be applied in line with the Behaviour Policy, as outlined below.

Reasonable adjustments will be made where a student requires access to a device for medical, disability-related or safeguarding reasons.

In recognition of the greater independence associated with post-16 education, Sixth Form students may use mobile phones only within designated Sixth Form areas. This exception is carefully controlled and does not extend to the wider school site. As such, KS5 students are only permitted to use their phones the Sixth Form area only and in the dining room for study purposes during lesson time. Sixth Form students must not use their phones across the school site when moving to lessons, or in any other space that is accessed by younger students. If a KS5 student does not adhere to this policy, they are subject to the consequences in line with KS3 & KS4.



Mobile phones and headphones/airpods **should not be seen in school.**

If you need it for your journey to and from school, switch it off and put in your bag on arrival to school site. It must remain unseen until you have left school site at the end of the school day.



See it.



Hear it.



Lose it!

1st & 2nd time: confiscated until the end of the day.

3rd time in a week: confiscated until your parents/carers collect it.

4 times in a half term: parents/carers attend meeting before mobile phone is returned.

Refusal to hand over your mobile phone will result in escalated consequences including an immediate mobile phone plan and phone removal for a period of time.

Classroom phone confiscating flow chart

STUDENT CHOICE

STAFF ACTION

The phone is seen by a member of staff and the student hands it over.

If the student initially refuses, allow a short period of 'take up time' in order for them to reflect on their decision. The student then hands the phone over.

The phone is confiscated, given to student reception and is added to the phone log. Phone given back at end of the day.

The student continues to refuse to hand the phone over.

ONCALL is called and the student hands over the phone.

The phone is confiscated, given to student reception and is added to the phone log. Phone is given back at the end of the day.

The student refuses to give the phone to ONCALL.

After speaking to parents/carers the student hands the phone over.

The student is taken to the Reflection Room and parents are called. The phone is given to student reception and is given back at an agreed time with the parent. The student also has an afterschool detention for refusal. (C3) Student is added to the phone log.

The student continues to refuse to parents/carers (or if parents/carers can't be contacted).

Student is placed in the Reflection Room. Phone must be handed in to the Year Leader the next morning. Year Leader to meet/discuss with parents/carers, and must sign a phone contract for a minimum of 2 weeks.



Break/lunch phone confiscating flow chart

