



14 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

New mobile phone and smart device policy from September 2026

I am writing to explain an important change to our mobile phone and smart device policy, which will come into effect from the start of the new academic year in September 2026.

Until now, our approach has been that mobile phones must be switched off, not seen and not heard, and kept zipped inside students' blazer pockets. This has supported our expectations well. However, following the Department for Education's updated statutory guidance, which **became statutory on 29 June 2026**, all schools are now expected to prohibit access to mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, movement between lessons, breaktime and lunchtime.

As a result, from September 2026, our policy must change.

Students are strongly advised not to bring mobile phones or personally-owned smart devices to school. Where a student chooses to bring a phone or device to school, it must:

- be switched off before entering the school site;
- be placed in the student's locked locker for the full school day;
- not be kept in pockets, bags or on the student's person;
- not be switched on, checked, handled or used at any time during the school day.

If a phone or smart device is seen, heard, used, switched on, accessed, handled, found on a student's person, or found outside their locked locker during the school day, this will be treated as a breach of the policy and will lead to confiscation in line with the School's procedures.

Students must not use their phone to contact parents/carers during the school day. Likewise, **parents/carers should not contact their child on a mobile device during the school day**. Any urgent message should be sent through the School Office, and students may contact home through the School Office in an emergency.

Lockers and combination locks: to support this change, please ensure your child has a suitable padlock for their locker before September. We strongly recommend a combination lock, as this removes the risk of keys being lost and ensures students can access their locker consistently.

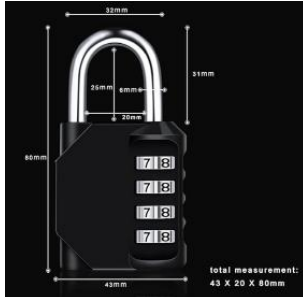


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A suitable example of a combination lock is shown below:



Amazon example:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B0FNR21H7D/ref=sw_img_1?smid=A2CC5JN32KE8B1&th=1

Please check that any lock purchased is suitable for your child's locker and that your child knows their combination before the start of term.

We appreciate that this is a change from our previous "not seen and not heard" approach. However, in light of the statutory guidance, we must adopt this new policy from September 2026. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe, focused and respectful learning environment for all students.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L Clarke
Deputy Headteacher
Sacred Heart Catholic High School



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