



Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton Telephone 01694 722209
Shropshire, SY6 6EX E admin@csschool.co.uk
www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk



Headteacher: Dr. A Wood, PhD, NPQH, BSc (Hons)

Monday, 6th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over recent years, schools across the country have seen increasing concerns regarding the impact of mobile phones on learning, wellbeing and behaviour. Whilst mobile phones can be valuable outside of school, they can also create unnecessary distractions, increase anxiety through constant access to social media and messaging, and contribute to issues such as cyberbullying and inappropriate photography or filming.

As part of updated Department for Education (DfE) expectations regarding mobile phones in schools, we are introducing new arrangements for the storage of student mobile phones during the school day.

From Tuesday 1st September 2026, all mobile phones must be handed in at the start of the school day. Each tutor room will have a secure, locked safe, and the form tutor will be responsible for collecting phones each morning and returning them to students at the end of the day. Whilst phones will be stored in a locked safe during the school day, the school will not accept liability or be responsible for loss or damage, however caused.

This approach is being implemented to ensure a safe, focused learning environment for all students and to support consistency in line with national guidance.

Please note the following important requirements:

- Phones must be clearly labelled with the student's first and last name.
- Phones must be switched off before being handed in.
- Please note that Church Stretton school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from school.
- As such, we strongly advise that parents/carers ensure appropriate personal insurance cover is in place, as the school will not be able to accept liability or process claims for any loss or damage.

Students are not required to bring a mobile phone to school. Any student who chooses to bring a mobile phone into school does so entirely at their own risk, and the School and Academy Trust will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

We appreciate that many students bring phones to school for safety and communication reasons before and after the school day. These arrangements allow for this, while ensuring that phones are not a distraction to learning.

We ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. If a student chooses not to follow this process, this will be managed in line with the school's behaviour policy which will specifically address non-compliance with mobile phone storage requirements. The use of hand-held electronic wands may be used if students are suspected of having their phones on them during the school day.

To help with any questions or concerns please find attached some frequently asked questions (Appendix 1). If you have any other questions which are not covered in this section, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

This information has been shared with students during tutor time today.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Dr A Wood
Headteacher

Mr Longhurst
Assistant Headteacher

Appendix 1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the school introducing a mobile phone-free policy?

The school is committed to providing a calm, safe and focused learning environment that is compliant with new DFE guidance. Research shows that reducing access to mobile phones during the school day improves concentration, behaviour, attendance, wellbeing and academic achievement. This plan also helps to reduce issues relating to social media, cyberbullying, filming and photography on school premises.

Can my child bring a phone to school?

Yes, but only where parents feel it is necessary for their journey to and from school.

Our expectation is that, wherever possible, students leave their phone at home.

If a phone is brought to school, it **must** be switched off, clearly labelled with the students first and last name and handed to the student's Form tutor during morning tutor time.

Where will my child's phone be kept?

Phones will be switched off and stored securely in a locked safe located within the student's tutor room throughout the school day.

At the end of the day, students will return to their tutor room to collect their phone before leaving the school site.

Is my child's phone insured by the school?

No.

Whilst phones will be stored in a locked safe during the school day, the school will not accept liability or be responsible for loss or damage, however caused.

What if my child has a medical appointment or a fixture during the day?

Students who know they will be leaving school early for a medical appointment, sporting fixture, educational visit or another authorised activity should hand their phone into Reception when they arrive at school.

Reception staff will securely store the phone so it can be collected when the student signs out.

What if my child becomes ill during the school day?

If a student is sent home unexpectedly because they are unwell, a member of staff will ensure they collect their phone from their tutor room before leaving school.

How can I contact my child during the school day?

Parents should continue to contact the school Reception if they need to pass on an urgent message.

Students who need to contact home during the school day can do so through Reception.

What happens if my child forgets to hand in their phone?

If a student is found carrying or using a phone that has not been handed in, the phone will be confiscated, and a parent or carer will be required to collect it from school. Behaviour sanctions will also be applied in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

What happens if my child refuses to hand over their phone?

Refusing to hand over a mobile phone is considered a refusal to follow a reasonable instruction from a member of staff.

This will result in further behaviour sanctions, which may include removal from lessons and, where appropriate, further consequences under the school's Behaviour Policy.

When will the school use detection wands?

Detection wands will only be used where there are reasonable grounds to believe a student has retained a mobile phone after they should have handed it in.

The wands help staff ensure that the policy is being followed fairly and consistently.

Their use is intended to support the policy, not to replace positive relationships between students and staff.

Will every student be searched?

No.

Detection wands will not be used routinely on every student. They will only be used where there is a reasonable suspicion that a student is carrying a mobile phone in breach of the policy.

What if my child needs their phone for medical reasons?

If a student has a medical need that requires access to a mobile device (e.g. for tracking etc), this will be agreed and considered on an individual basis.

Can my child collect their phone before the end of the school day?

Only where there is an authorised reason, such as a medical appointment, sporting fixture or other approved early departure.

Otherwise, phones will be returned during afternoon tutor time at the end of the school day.

What if my child needs to use public transport after school?

The school recognises that many students travel independently.

Students who bring a phone for their journey home will collect it from their tutor room before leaving school, ensuring they have access to it for their journey.