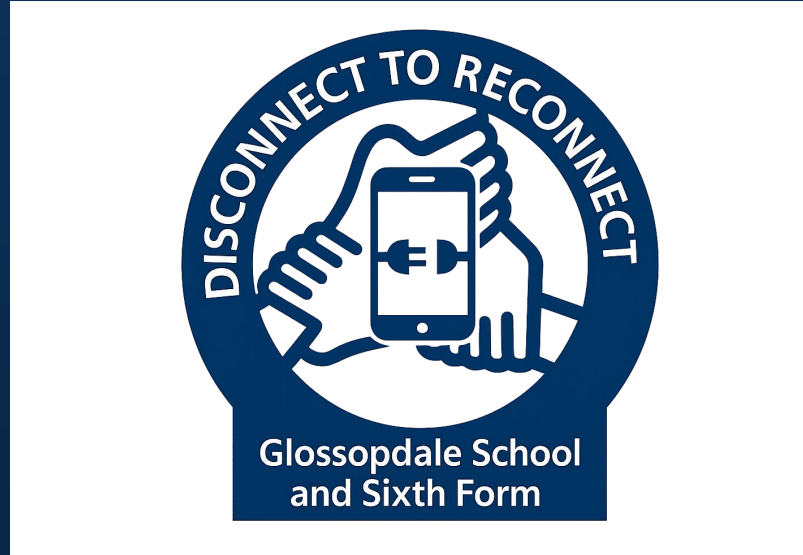


Disconnect to Reconnect

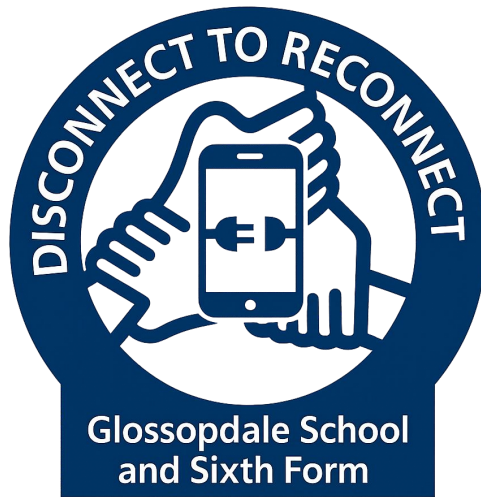


Glossopdale School & Sixth Form



'Disconnect to Reconnect'

- Every day, our phones compete for our attention.
- By putting them away during the school day, we create more opportunities to focus on learning, build stronger relationships and be fully present.
- Sometimes the best way to connect with others is to disconnect from our devices.
- When we disconnect with our phones, we reconnect with what's important - our learning, our relationships and the world around us





Why Now?

- Schools across the country are reviewing their approach to mobile phones following updated government guidance.
- There is extensive evidence that proves that phones can negative impact learning, wellbeing and behaviour during the school day.
- Our current rules are simply not working - mobile phones are still switched on, still visible and still causing distractions every lesson, of every day
- We believe now is the right time to introduce a clearer and more consistent approach.





The Positive Impacts of Phones

- Mobile phones are an important part of modern life.
- They help us stay connected with family and friends, access information instantly and express ourselves creatively.
- When used appropriately, phones can be powerful tools for communication, learning and entertainment.
- Sadly, like most things in life, too much of a good thing can lead to negative consequences.





The Negative Impacts of Phones

- Mobile phones don't just distract us – they can affect our learning, wellbeing and relationships.
- Every notification, vibration or message breaks our concentration, making it harder to stay focused and learn effectively.
- Social media can increase anxiety and pressure through constant comparison, while online disagreements regularly become real-life conflicts in school.
- Unrestricted access to the internet during the day can also create serious safeguarding concerns for students.
- To be fully present, fully focused and achieve your best, students need to be completely phone free during the school day.





Why Change is Needed

- While phones can offer several benefits, the challenges they create during the school day are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.
- The impact on learning, relationships, behaviour and wellbeing means we need a different approach.
- We believe this change will help create a better environment for learning and wellbeing for everyone.





It's not About Banning Phones

- Mobile phones are already 'banned' inside the school building, but our existing expectations are not always followed consistently.
- This can create confusion and additional conflict, for students and staff.
- The lack of structure around preventing phone use, especially when adults and staff *aren't* present, is precisely why we need to make this change
- The use of phone pouches provides a simple, clear structure that helps everyone understand and follow the same expectations.





What We're Doing About It

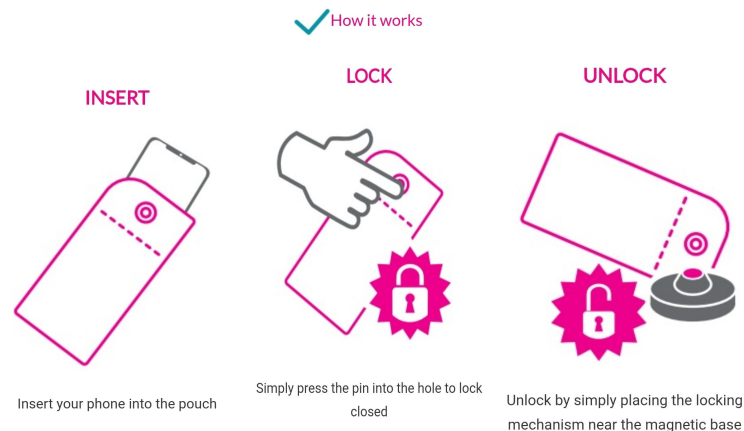
- To support a phone-free school day, we will be introducing mobile phone pouches from September 26
- Students will keep possession of their phones at all times, but they will be securely locked away during the school day.
- This approach balances personal responsibility with clear expectations.





How do Phone Pouches Work?

- School buys all students a pouch.
- Students place their phone in their pouch as they arrive to school and lock it (SLT supporting at the school gate).
- Students keep phone and pouch with them all day but won't be able to unlock it.
- At the end of the day, students unlock the pouch using the device in the picture.
- There would be several of these installed around school site which would become accessible from 3.10pm.





How do Phone Pouches Work?





Student Expectations - September 26

- All mobile phones and Bluetooth-enabled devices (e.g. smartwatches) must be switched off and secured in phone pouches on arrival to site.
- Gates open: 8:15am–8:35am (Main entrance and Dinting gate). Students should arrive within this window.
- Students arriving before 8:15am must enter via reception and follow the same phone procedure (A member of staff will be present to support this)
- Staff will be present to welcome and support students on entry.
- Phone pouches remain locked throughout the school day and are unlocked by each student using the external unlockers at 3:10pm.



Phone Pouch Expectations

- Phone pouches are **essential equipment** and must be brought to school every day, whether students have a phone or not.
- Students arriving without a pouch must hand in their phone at the gate and will receive a 20-minute detention (next day).
- Students without a phone who do not bring their pouch will also receive a detention.
- Phones handed in at the start of the day will be collected by students at the end of the day.





Lost, damaged & misused devices

- Lost or deliberately damaged pouches must be replaced at a cost of £20.
- Devices not properly secured in pouches or that go off during the day will be **confiscated** until 3:30pm the following school day.
- Confiscated devices must be collected by a parent/carer (or responsible adult) between 3:30–4:00pm from Reception.
- Devices confiscated on a Friday can be collected Monday (next full school day).
- Parents/carers will be informed on the day, and repeat breaches will lead to longer confiscation periods.





Consequences for not Following the Rules

- Repeated failure to follow the rules will result in students phones being confiscated for longer:
 - Second offence: **3 school days**
 - Third offence: **5 school days**
- If a student brings an alternative device while their phone is confiscated, further sanctions will apply.





Consequences for not Following the Rules

Attempts to circumvent the system (e.g. dummy phones, unlocking pouches) will result in confiscation + additional sanctions.

- **Internal suspension** is the default sanction.

Refusal to hand over a device when requested:

- Leads to internal suspension, and continued refusal may result in suspension.
- If a student is suspended, the device must be handed in when the student returns to school for the full confiscation period.

Persistent refusal to follow the policy will result in the implementation of a behaviour contract, which will include the loss of the right to bring a device into school.





Spot checks & searches

Routine spot checks will take place during the school day to ensure the policy is followed.

- Staff may ask students to open pouches to check devices are switched off and secured.

Additional checks may include:

- Use of a handheld scanner ('wand') – quick and non-intrusive
- Bag searches where appropriate

Searches will take place where there are reasonable grounds, such as:

- A credible report of a device in school
- An empty or incorrect pouch
- Suspicion of a dummy or second device

Random spot checks may also be used for students who have repeatedly breached the policy. We will follow the guidelines for searching detailed in our Behaviour Policy.



The Benefits of Following the Rules

- Schools that have introduced phone pouches report dramatic improvements in student focus, behaviour and face-to-face interaction.
- Students spend more time talking, participating and engaging with school life.
- Our goal is to create a calmer, more connected and more collaborative school community.





Student FAQs - Phone Pouches

- We know you may have questions about the new phone pouch system.
- Over the coming weeks, you will have opportunities to ask questions through pastoral tutor time.
- We will share answers and guidance so that everyone feels informed and prepared.

