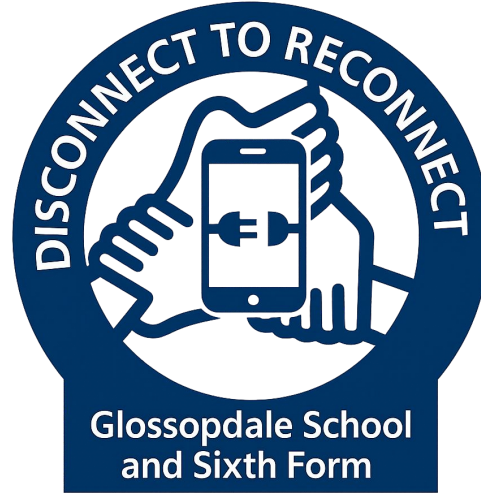


Disconnect to Reconnect

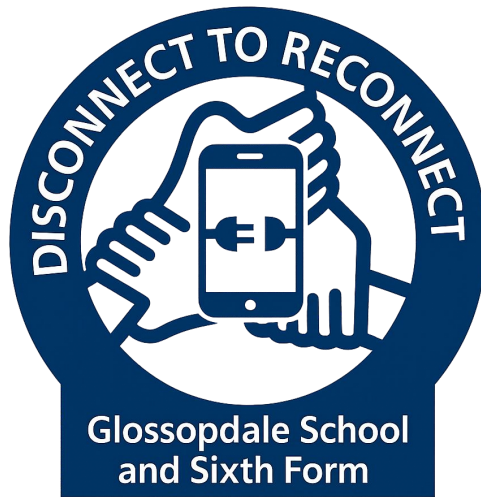


Glossopdale School & Sixth Form



'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 are we reviewing our approach?

- National guidance and emerging research have prompted schools to review the role of mobile phones during the school day.
- At the same time, schools are reporting increasing challenges linked to distraction, social media, online conflict and safeguarding concerns.
- As a school, we have a responsibility to respond to these challenges and create the best possible conditions for learning.
- Our current rules are simply not enough of a deterrent - mobile phones are still switched on, still visible and still causing distractions every lesson, of every day
- As a result, we believe now is the right time to introduce a clearer and more consistent approach.





The benefits of mobile phones

- We recognise that mobile phones play an important role in young people's lives.
- They help students stay connected with family, access information, organise their lives and express themselves creatively.
- Sadly, like many things in life, too much of a good thing can lead to negative consequences.
- This proposal is not based on the belief that phones are inherently harmful, but on the understanding that time and place matter.





The impact of phones on student learning

- Research consistently shows that smartphones can negatively affect attention and concentration.
- Notifications, messages and the anticipation of communication can interrupt learning even when a device is not actively being used.
- During the school day, our students deserve an environment that allows them to focus fully on learning without unnecessary distractions.

76%

of teachers have had a problem with a student using a smartphone in class

96%

of teachers think students are less focused on their learning with smart phone access in Schools.

Teaching Abroad Direct (2025) *Smartphones in schools - Teacher survey - April 2025.*



The impact of phones on wellbeing and relationships

- Many parents and carers will recognise the pressures young people face through social media and constant connectivity.
- Online disagreements often continue into school, creating additional challenges for relationships and behaviour.
- Creating periods of the day where students are free from these pressures can support wellbeing and encourage more positive face-to-face interactions.





The impact of phones on student safeguarding

- Unrestricted access to the internet during the school day creates safeguarding concerns for all schools.
- These include exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, the sharing of images and videos, and communication that takes place outside the supervision of adults.
- Reducing access during the school day is an important protective measure for all of our students

66%

of teachers have witnessed a safeguarding issue in school as a result of a student using a smartphone

72%

of teachers have seen students being bullied through the use of smartphones at school

75%

of teachers have witnessed students filming other students on their phones



Why we believe change is necessary

- 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, wellbeing and safeguarding means we need a different approach.
- We believe this change will help create a better environment for learning and wellbeing for everyone.





What does 'phone-free' mean?

- 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.





Our positive and proactive approach

- 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.





Why phone pouches?

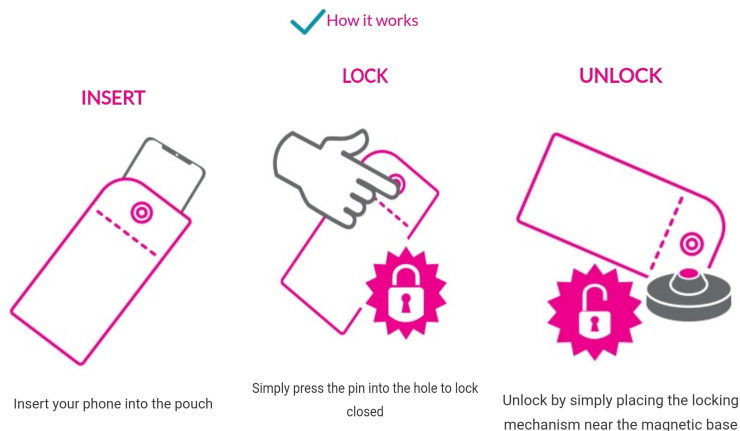
- After reviewing a range of options, we believe phone pouches provide the most balanced solution.
- Students keep possession of their device throughout the day, while removing the temptation and distraction of accessing it.
- This approach protects learning while maintaining parental reassurance that devices remain with students.





How do phone pouches work?

- Students place their phone in a locking pouch upon arrival at school.
- The pouch remains with the student throughout the day and is unlocked using designated stations at the end of the school day.
- Students retain ownership and possession of their device at all times.
- There will be an unlocking station outside the school gates.





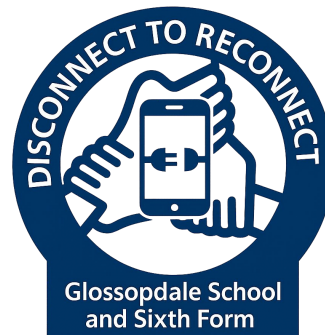
How do phone pouches work?





Expectations from September 26

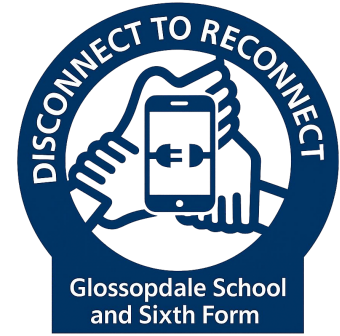
- From September 2026, all mobile phones and Bluetooth-enabled devices, including smartwatches, must be switched off and secured in a phone pouch on arrival to school.
- Students will keep possession of their devices throughout the day, but they will remain inaccessible until the end of the school day.
- Phone pouches will become part of students' essential equipment and must be brought to school every day, even if students do not bring a phone.
- These expectations will provide a clear, consistent structure that supports learning, wellbeing and positive behaviour across the school.





Phones for students with IHCPs

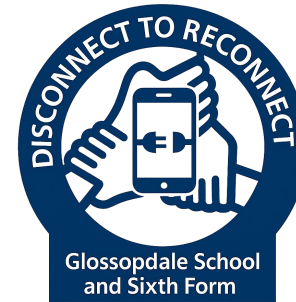
- Some students require the use of their phone for medical reasons.
- These students will still have access to their phone and will be issued with a different pouch.
- Individual meetings are taking place with the relevant students and parents before the end of the academic year.





Lost, damaged & misused devices

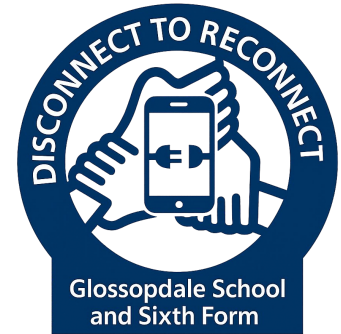
- Lost or deliberately damaged phone pouches will need to be replaced at a cost of £20.
- Devices that are not secured correctly, or that are used during the school day, will be confiscated until 3:30pm the following school day.
- Confiscated devices must be collected by a parent/carers from Reception.
- Parents/carers will be informed whenever a device is confiscated.
- Repeated breaches of the policy will result in longer confiscation periods and additional sanctions where appropriate.





Maintaining the integrity of the system

- Routine checks will take place throughout the school day to ensure devices are switched off and secured correctly.
- Students may be asked to demonstrate that their phone is secured within their pouch.
- Attempts to circumvent the system, such as using dummy devices or tampering with pouches, will result in confiscation and additional behaviour sanctions.
- Refusal to comply with reasonable staff requests may result in internal suspension, suspension or the loss of the right to bring a device into school.
- Repeated breaches of the policy will lead to increasingly serious consequences, including behaviour contracts and extended confiscation periods.





Working together

- The success of this initiative depends on a strong partnership between school and home.
- We ask parents and carers to support the school's expectations by reinforcing the importance of the policy with their child.
- Consistent messages from both school and home will help students adapt quickly to the new routines.
- Clear procedures, regular checks and fair consequences will ensure the system is applied consistently for all students.
- By working together, we can create a calmer, safer and more focused learning environment for every child.





Working together

- The success of this initiative also depends on all members of the school community following the same principles.
- Staff will also be 'disconnecting to reconnect'.
- We have and will enforce a strict no phones policy for staff around the school building during lesson time and in meetings.





Questions

- We know you may have questions about the new phone pouch system.
- Please email info@glossopdaleschool.org.uk and add the title 'Phone Pouches' as the subject.
- We will respond to questions in our weekly newsletter.
- Answers to questions asked on the evening are on the following slides.





Questions

Will phones be allowed on school trips?

Typically, no. We will continue to follow the same protocols for phone use on trips as we currently do. This will mean that, in the majority of cases, phones will need to be in pouches. There may be exceptions and we will communicate these for individual trips.





Questions

Will there be long queues to lock and unlock pouches at the beginning and end of the school day?

The locking and unlocking process is very quick and straightforward. We anticipate that this will take longer in the first few days but staff and students will become very used to it within the first week.





Questions

What time will the Dinting gate be open in the mornings?

The Dinting gate and the main front entrance will both be open and staffed from 8.15am in the morning.





Questions

Will anxious students have any different/additional arrangements?

All students will need a pouch and, with the exception of students with medical needs, will need it locked. Students who require a phone as part of their IHCP will have a different pouch that allows access to the phone throughout the day.





Questions

When will reception be open for parents/carers to collect any confiscated phones?

Visitor reception is staffed from 8am-4pm every day. Phones will be confiscated and kept in school until the end of the following school day if they have been used/a pouch has been left unlocked/deliberately damaged or an attempt has been made to circumvent the system, eg. a dummy phone has been used. Parents may arrange for a designated adult to collect the phone if the parent is unavailable.





Questions

How will students be able to contact parents/carers in emergencies?

Students or parents/carers should contact the Year Team. We will update and communicate guidance on this for parents/carers and students in the Autumn Term.

