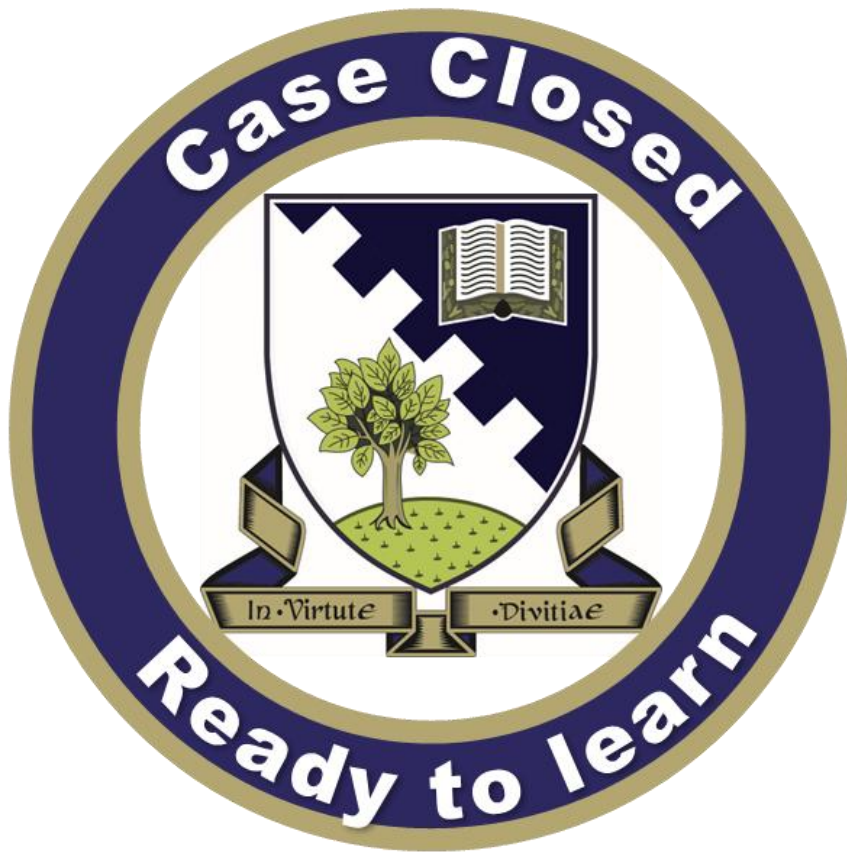


Grove Academy Mobile Phone Policy



Case Closed - Ready to Learn

Purpose

This policy aims to create a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment by minimising distractions and promoting positive social interaction. This will allow learners to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

This policy is written with our school values in mind, in particular *Respect* and *Equity*.

Core Principle

To support this purpose, Grove Academy has introduced a whole school mobile phone policy using the QuietCase system. The QuietCase is a lockable, signal-blocking pouch that prevents students from accessing their phone during the school day.

Learners are permitted to bring mobile phones to school, if required, to support safe travel to and from school. However, upon arrival, all mobile phones must be placed in a lockable QuietCase, which remains locked throughout the school day. Learners retain possession of this pouch during the school day.

This approach balances safety, wellbeing and responsibility, while support and learning focused environment that benefits all members of the school community.

Rationale

Grove Academy is committed to creating an environment where learning is the priority and where learners feel safe, supported and connected to one another.

Evidence increasingly shows that unrestricted mobile phone access during the school day:

- Reduces focus and concentration
- Impacts negatively on mental wellbeing
- Limits face to face interaction
- Increases the potential for online bullying, conflict and misuse of social media

By introducing QuietCase, Grove Academy aims to future proof learning, reduce classroom disruption, and support the application of the Grove Academy Learning Pathway.

This policy aligns with national guidance encouraging schools to take proactive, context-sensitive steps to manage mobile phone use during the school day.

Aims of the Policy

Enhance Learning and Academic Focus

- Reduce distractions during lessons
- Improve attention, engagement and attainment
- Support calm, purposeful learning environments

Promote Social Interaction and Relationships

- Encourage face to face communication during breaks and lunchtime
- Support the development of social, interpersonal and communication skills
- Reduce isolation linked to excessive phone use

Support Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Reduce anxiety associated with constant notifications and online pressures
- Provide young people with a healthy break from digital connectivity
- Support mindfulness and emotional regulation throughout the day

Foster Responsibility and Self-regulation

- Support young people in developing healthy and respectful relationships with technology
- Encourage accountability through caring for and managing their QuietCase responsibly

Promote Equity and Inclusion

- Reduce social comparison and pressure linked to device ownership or social media
- Ensure all learners access the school day on equal terms

Maintain a Safe and Respectful School Environment

- Reduce incidents involving filming, messaging or online conflict
- Support safeguarding, dignity and respect across the school community

Policy Details

This policy applies to all learners (S1-S6) and covers mobile phones while in the school building.

Arrival

Upon entering the school building learners must:

- Power off their mobile phones and any smart technology.
- Place their mobile phone into their QuietCase, zip the QuietCase, and press the button to lock.
- Demonstrate to staff at doors that their mobile phones are in their QuietCase upon entry to the building.
- The locked QuietCase must remain in the student's bag throughout the day.

Tutor Time

During tutor time:

- Learners will be welcomed by their classroom teacher and asked to place their QuietCase on their desk.
- The tutor teacher will then instruct learners to hold up their QuietCase and show they are trying to pull the zip down to confirm the case is locked.
- The tutor teacher may check some QuietCases to ensure they are closed and locked.

Lunchtime

For learners who leave the school grounds during lunchtime are permitted to unlock their phones at designated bases. Upon return to the school grounds learners must place their device in the QuietCase and lock it.

End of the School Day

At the end of the school day:

- Learners will proceed to unlocking stations at designated areas of the school to open their QuietCase.
- Once their Quietcase is unlocked they will move away from the station to remove their mobile phone from the case. Members of staff will be on duty with portable unlocking stations if there are any difficulties.

At any point throughout the school day, a member of the school leadership team may carry out a spot check on Quietcase's and ask learners to demonstrate that their case is still locked.

Location of Unlocking Stations

Unlocking stations can be found at the following locations:

- Canteen
- Deli Bar
- Red Stairwell
- RFM Stairwell
- CDT Corridor
- Maths Corridor
- PE
- Orange Stairwell
- Yellow Stairwell

These unlocking stations will be available to access at the end of the school day.

At the start of lunchtime, the stairwell locations will be available for learners leaving the school grounds.

Exceptions

- Any learner who requires access to their mobile phone for medical monitoring must still place their device within a non-signal blocking QuietCase but it is not required to be locked. Learners will be issued with a card to identify they have permission to do this. This card must be stored in the QuietCase. These cards will be issued by the appropriate House Head following discussion throughout the school leadership team to ensure a fair and consistent approach.
- Some learners may require additional adjustments, these will be discussed by the school leadership team, the relevant guidance teacher, learner, and parent / carer.
- We recognise that some of our learners benefit from communication with family throughout the school day. However, mobile phones will not be accessible during the school day. Alternative strategies to support learners with this can be discussed with guidance teachers.

Emergency Situations

- If a parent / carer requires to communicate with a learner during the school day they must phone the school office.
- If a learner requires to communicate with a parent / carer during the school day they must report to the school office where a member of staff can contact home on their behalf or permit supervised mobile phone access.
- This should only be used where the information cannot be shared at the end of the school day when the learner will have access to their phone.

Consequences

- First Occasion: Any mobile phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated. The mobile phone will be placed in a plastic wallet and the learners name clearly written on the front. The class teacher will contact the school office, and this wallet will be collected by a school support worker or a member of the senior leadership team and taken to the office for storage until the learner collects it at the end of the day. Learner name will be noted by the office. A group call will be sent home to make parents / carers aware.
- Second Occasion: Any mobile phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated. The mobile phone will be placed in a plastic wallet and the learners name clearly written on the front. The class teacher will contact the school office, and this wallet will be collected by a school support worker or a member of the senior leadership team and taken to the office for storage. A member of the senior leadership team will phone home asking a parent / carer to collect the device.
- Repeated Occasions: Meeting with parent/carers, house head and guidance teacher, and possible further sanctions.
- If a learner fails to follow an instruction to place their mobile phone in a QuietCase then the following interventions will follow:
 1. Class teacher will make one clear request to place their phone on the teacher's desk if seen or heard during the school day.
 2. Principal teacher will make one clear request to place their phone on the teacher's desk.
 3. If the learner continues to refuse, a duty call will be made to the school office so a member of the senior leadership team can attend. If a duty call is required, parents / carers will be contacted and further sanctions will be put in place.

Forgotten QuietCase

Any learner who forgets their QuietCase will either be issued with a temporary QuietCase or be expected to hand their phone into the office until they can collect at the end of the school day, or at the start of lunchtime if they are leaving the school grounds. Any mobile phone seen or heard during the day by a learner who has forgotten their QuietCase will be subject to the consequences above.

Tampering or Damage

Deliberate tampering will be treated seriously, and learners will be expected to purchase a replacement QuietCase.

Examples of damage:

- Ripped, cut or torn fabric
- Signs of force to the lock button
- Signs of force to the zip

Roles and Responsibilities

Learners

- Secure mobile phones on arrival
- Bring QuietCase daily
- Follow staff instructions and policy expectations

Parents / Carers

- Support the policy
- Ensure learners bring QuietCase to school
- Engage positively with the school when contacted

Staff

- Model appropriate mobile phone use by not using personal devices during class time, mobile phone use is only permitted in non-teaching spaces.
- Apply the policy consistently
- Support learners in understanding expectations

Senior Leadership Team

- Oversee implementation and communication
- Ensure consistency and fairness
- Review and adapt the policy as needed

Office Staff

- Log and securely store confiscated phones
- Ensure mobile phones are sealed in pouches when learners arrive late
- Support communication with parents / carers where required

School Support Workers

- Reinforce the policy
- Collect any confiscated mobile phones during the school day

Visitors and External Partners

- Learners from other schools will be issued with a Quietcase to be used during their time in Grove Academy.
- External Partners will be expected to respect the phone-free environment by limited mobile phone use.

Responsibility

- Learners are responsible for the security of their phones. The school accepts no liability for loss or damage.

Review and monitoring

This policy will be reviewed regularly through:

- Pupil voice
- Staff consultation
- Parent / carer feedback
- Behaviour and wellbeing data

Adjustments will be made to ensure the policy continues to support learning, inclusion and wellbeing at Grove Academy.

Summary of Consultation

Staff

70% of staff identified that mobile phone use distracts from learning, with 92% identifying that our previous mobile phone policy required updating. 70% of staff identified that the use of a mobile phone pouch (or similar) would be the most appropriate way to move forward. Staff also indicated that a mobile phone free school environment would reduce negative interactions in the classroom and that the break from mobile phones would have a positive impact on learner health and wellbeing.

Parents / Carers

71% of parents / carers were concerned about the impact of mobile phone use on their learner's education with 58% supporting mobile phones being away for the entire school day and a further 35% supporting that this should be during lessons only. Many parents / carers also highlighted the negative impact mobile phone use is having on the mental health of young people.

Learners

32% of learners felt the current mobile phone policy is effective and stated that some teachers don't change the lights and that it works in some places but not others. 79% of learners indicated that they see mobile phones being used in classrooms with many learners concerned about mobile phone use stating 'teachers need to tell people to put phones away and it's annoying' and some indicated they like to use mobile phones to see their timetables