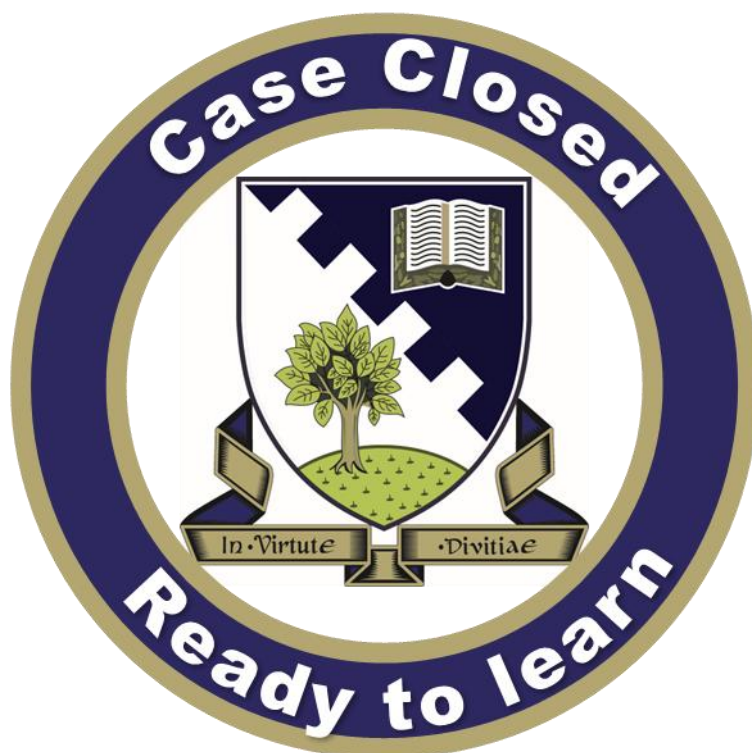


Grove Academy Mobile Phone Policy



Parent / Carer Policy Summary

At Grove Academy we want to create a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment by minimising distractions and promoting positive social interaction. To support this, we have a complete ban on mobile phone use within the school grounds.

What does this mean for learners?

Learners must secure their mobile phones in a Quietcase upon entry into the school building and they must remain in the Quietcase until the end of the school day. Phones are not permitted during the lessons or breaktime. Learners may only have access to their phone at lunchtime if they are leaving the school grounds. In emergencies, learners can be contacted and contact parents / carers via the school office. If there is any refusal to follow this policy will be taken seriously and parents will be contacted so appropriate next steps can be put in place.

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

The policy aims to encourage more face-to-face communication during break and lunch, and support the development of social, interpersonal and communication skills. It also aims to reduce anxiety associated with constant notifications and online pressures.

Exceptions

We understand that a small number of learners may require their mobile phone for medical purposes. These cases will be handled on an individual basis by the school leadership team to ensure a fair and consistent approach.

Our ask of parents / carers

To support the implementation of our mobile phone policy we ask you to encourage your learner to follow the policy and understand the reasoning behind it. We ask for your support should we need to contact you if your learner has not followed the policy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why has Grove Academy introduced a total ban on mobile phones in the school?

A: The school has introduced this policy to ensure that learning time is free from distraction, to reduce issues linked to social media, and to promote positive face-to-face interaction. Research shows that limiting mobile phone use during the school day can improve concentration, wellbeing, and academic outcomes

Q: When do learners secure their phones in the Quietcase?

A: Learners must place their phone in their Quietcase as soon as they enter the school building and ensure the case is locked.

Q: When can learners unlock their Quietcases?

A: Quietcases can only be unlocked at the end of the school day or at the start of lunch if the learner is leaving the school grounds.

Q: Can my learner use their phone during break and lunch?

A: Learners cannot use their phone during break, only learners leaving the school grounds will have access to their phones at lunch to allow mobile phones to be used to make purchases out with the school.

Q: Why can mobile phones only be accessed at lunch when learners leave the school grounds?

A: We understand that many learners choose to leave the school grounds during lunch, so to support the safety of these learners and allow them to use their mobile phones to purchase lunch they can unlock their Quietcase during this time.

Q: What if a learner is found using their mobile phone in the school building?

A: If a learner is seen using a phone or if the Quietcase is found to be unlocked during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and taken to the school office. Parents/carers may be required to collect it, depending on the circumstance.

Q: How does this policy support learner wellbeing?

A: Removing phones from the school day helps reduce online pressure, social media conflicts, and constant notifications. It encourages face-to-face socialising, reduces anxiety linked to digital comparison, and creates a calmer, safer learning environment.

Q: What if my learner arrives late?

A: If a learner arrives late, they will be expected to secure their phone in their Quietcase when they enter the school. They will be met at reception by a member of staff who will check their phone is secured and, if necessary, escort them to class.

Q: What if my learner needs to leave school for an appointment?

A: Any learner who needs to leave school during the school day for an appointment will report to the school office where a member of the school office team will be able to unlock their Quietcase. If the learner returns to the school during the school day they will be expected to secure their phone upon arrival.

Q: What about the cost? I don't think the school should be paying for this, nor I as a parent.

A: During the consultation 71% of parents who responded indicated they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of the implementation of this policy. These contributions will help us to work in partnership to fund this initiative. During this consultation, several parents also indicated they would be willing to contribute more to support the successful implementation, this has led to the 'Buy one, gift one' option available on ParentPay. We fully appreciate that some families may not be able to contribute and encourage these parents to contact their learner's guidance teacher. We really hope you are able to contribute to support the school in making this a reality for our young people.

Q: What about pupils who require their phones for specific reasons, such as medical needs, anxiety, or being young carers?

A: We understand that certain learners may have specific circumstances that necessitate access to their phones. We are committed to working closely with parents and learners to ensure appropriate strategies will be in place in these circumstances that still support our move to a mobile phone free school.

Q: What if my child doesn't bring their phone to school?

A: If your child does not bring a phone to school or does not have a mobile phone with them they will need to let staff know this when they enter the building, during tutor time and during any further checks throughout the day. However, if they do bring a phone and are found using it during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and only returned at the end of the school day.

Q: Will this cause congestion problems at the end of the school day?

A: No, we do not believe it will. We have looked outwards at other schools who have implemented similar policies and monitored the flow of learners as they leave the building. The release points are distributed throughout the school and will be monitored and revised as necessary.

Q: What if my child forgets their QuietCase?

A: If a young person forgets their pouch, they will need to visit the school office to either be issued a temporary QuietCase, or hand their phone into the school office. Much like bringing their school bag and equipment, we want to encourage learners to remember their QuietCase as part of their daily routine.

Q: What is my learner is out of school on a school trip or visiting Dawson Park for PE?

A: If a learner is off site as part of their education provision, which includes attending PE at Dawson, an arrangement is in place for their mobile phone QuietCases to be unlocked before leaving the school building.

Q: What if a there is a fire alarm?

A: If there is a fire alarm during the day learners are expected to exit the building quickly and safely, following instructions from a member of staff. This includes leaving bags, jackets etc in the classroom. When it is safe to return to the school building learners can collect their belongings and, if it is the end of the school day, proceed to release points to release their devices. If the fire alarm sounds once the bell has gone to signal the end of the school day and learners are already leaving the building, learners will be required to exit the building by the closest exit and report to normal muster points. Once it is safe for learners to be released from the school grounds portable release points will be used by staff outside to allow QuietCase's to be unlocked outside the school building.