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**CAISTER
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Monday 8 June 2026

Dear Parent

Mobile Phone Update

I would like to take this opportunity to share some important updates regarding our mobile phone policy and the rationale behind these changes.

As it currently stands, our policy on mobile phones is that they are not permitted to be seen or used on school grounds. Our primary focus is always the physical and mental well-being and safeguarding of our students. After careful consideration based on parental, and student feedback and alongside the revised DFE guidance on mobile devices, we have decided to implement a new policy approach regarding mobile phone usage at our school for students from September 2026.

Mental Well-Being

Research has consistently shown that excessive use of mobile phones, particularly smartphones, can have detrimental effects on students' mental health. The constant connectivity and exposure to social media can lead to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and stress. Additionally, the presence of mobile phones can be a significant distraction, impacting students' ability to concentrate and engage fully in their learning.

By preventing the unsupervised use of mobile phones during school hours, we aim to create a more focused and less stressful environment for our students. This change is intended to promote better mental health, allowing students to develop deeper interpersonal connections, improve their focus on academic tasks, and engage more fully in the school community.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our students is of utmost importance. Mobile phones can pose significant risks in terms of privacy, cyberbullying, and exposure to inappropriate content. By prohibiting mobile phone use during school time, we can better protect our students from these potential dangers and ensure a safer school environment.

The UK Government has provided clear guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools, highlighting the importance of minimising distractions and safeguarding students. In line with this advice, we are taking proactive steps to ensure that our school is a safe and supportive place for all students. The view of the UK Government is that mobile phones should be banned in schools.

[Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/mobile-phones-in-schools)

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Updated Mobile Phone Policy

When students return, or start with us in September 2026, students will be required to lock their mobile phones and digital devices such as AirPods and headphones away securely in Hush pouches on entry to the school until 3.00pm or, if applicable, until any detention sanction or elective has been completed.

Hush pouches are a practical solution that allow students to keep their phones with them without the temptation and/or ability to use them. The pouches can only be unlocked at the end of the school day or under the supervision of a named adult. The pouches will also block signal ensuring that digital devices are inaccessible during lessons and other critical school activities.

The school will provide each student with one pouch at no cost to families. Should the pouch be lost or vandalised, you will need to purchase a new one through Arbor Pay. This will cost approximately £15.

The Government has suggested that students who do not comply with the school rules on mobile phones should have them confiscated. Using the Hush system allows students to retain their phones and largely removes the need for confiscation. Removing a phone from a child would only be used as a last resort if a student failed to lock their phone in the Hush pouch.

This policy update has been carefully planned to balance the need for communication with parents and the necessity of maintaining a conducive learning environment, and student wellbeing. We understand that there may be occasions when students need to use their phones, and we have established protocols to handle these situations appropriately.

If you need to contact your child urgently, you can do so via the school office calling 01493 720542 or by email enquiries@caisteracademy.org.uk.

Medical Needs

We understand that some students may need access to their mobile phone during the school day for medical purposes. For example, some students with diabetes may use apps or devices that require phone connectivity to monitor their blood sugar levels or manage their condition safely.

In such cases, we are able to provide a **non-signal-blocking Velcro pouch**, allowing students to retain access to their medical devices as needed, while still respecting the purpose and consistency of the wider mobile phone policy.

We must reiterate that students requesting a Velcro pouch must be able to provide clear evidence of a medical need that requires mobile phone access.

To help us make the necessary arrangements, we kindly ask that you complete the short form below to inform us of your child's needs [Medical Exemptions and Information Request Form](#).

Next Steps

We will provide a series of assemblies for all students to help prepare them for this change in the upcoming new year. Similarly, there will be a link for parents/carers to watch a short video on how



the system works added on the school website. We believe that this new policy will significantly contribute to the well-being and safety of our students.

We will be piloting the system from Monday 13 July, to ensure all students are familiar with the policy and system before September.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do complete the following form [Parent Feedback Form](#).

Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and partnership in making our school a positive and secure place for our students to thrive and succeed.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Preston
Vice Principal