

Phone-Free School Day — Frequently Asked Questions

This sheet aims to answer the questions families may have about the change. If anything is not covered here, please contact the Academy and we will be happy to help.

When does this start?

From September 2026, when students return for the new academic year. We will introduce students to the new routines carefully in the first few days of term.

What exactly is changing?

We have previously been a “not seen, not heard” Academy — phones must be off and in bags all day. From September, any phone brought onto site must be switched off and locked in the student's own locker for the whole day, rather than carried in a bag.

Does my child have to bring a phone to the Academy?

No — and our strong preference is that they do not. Students do not need a phone during the school day. We are providing lockers only so that students who need to bring a phone, can do so.

How do the lockers work?

Each student is issued with a key to their own locker on their first day. The locker is for that student only. Phones go in at the start of the day and are collected at the end of the day. Lockers are not accessible during the day and are covered by CCTV.

Who is responsible for the phone? Is it insured?

Phones remain the responsibility of the student and their family at all times, and the Academy cannot accept liability for phones brought onto site. This is one of the reasons we would prefer students not to bring a phone unless they genuinely need to for their journey.

What about smartwatches, earphones and AirPods?

The change covers all mobile phones. Earphones and AirPods are also not permitted in the Academy. If you are unsure whether a particular device is affected, please ask the Year Team.

Does this include Sixth Form students?

Yes. Post-16 students place their phones in the designated point in the Post-16 Study Centre. They cannot carry their phones around site during the school day.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes — we will make exceptions on genuine medical grounds (for example, where a device is needed to manage a health condition). Please contact Mr Powell, our Primary First Aider to discuss any medical need so that we can agree suitable arrangements.

How do I contact my child during the school day, or in an emergency?

Please contact the Academy through Reception, exactly as you would now, and we will always make sure your child receives your message. This is unchanged. Students should not be contacted directly on a phone during the school day.

How will my child manage bus travel without a smartphone?

A child does not need a smartphone to travel to school. If your family currently relies on a phone app for discounted fares, there are alternatives that do not require one. For example, Trent Barton offer a physical **Spectrum Card** that can be tapped on the bus, used until a young person's 16th birthday, and topped up at the council office or Trent Barton shops. Fares and options change, so please check the latest with the bus operator directly. We are continuing to work with local providers to keep travel simple for families.

What happens if my child breaks the rules?

If a student is found with a phone during the day rather than locked away:

- ☐ They will face a serious sanction The spectrum of outcomes will be detailed in our behaviour policy from September.
- ☐ The phone will be confiscated and held securely until a parent or carer collects it.
- ☐ Students who lose their key, or who are found to have broken the rules on bringing a phone onto site, may be subject to random searches.

What if my child loses their locker key?

A charge applies for a replacement key. Until the new key is issued, your child should leave their phone at home so that it can be kept secure.

Where can I get more information or support?

For friendly advice and support as a family, visit the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign at smartphonefreechildhood.org. For anything specific to Derby Moor, please contact the Academy — we are always happy to talk it through.