



St. Paul's CBS Secondary School

North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, D07 VF57

Phone: 01-8720781 Email: office@thebrunner.ie

School Roll Number: 604300

Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20145392

Mobile Phone Policy 2026-27

Rationale

The Department of Education and Youth requires all post-primary schools to restrict student access to mobile phones during the school day (Circular 0045/2025). This policy extends to smart watches and other personal smart devices that have communication, recording, or internet capabilities.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect the learning environment by reducing distraction.
- Safeguard student wellbeing and prevent harmful use.
- Ensure fairness, consistency, and compliance with national guidelines.

Scope

This policy applies to all students and covers:

- Mobile phones.
- Smart watches.
- Other personal smart devices (e.g. fitness trackers with messaging/notification functions, tablets, e-readers with internet access).

The policy applies from arrival at the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day, including breaks, lunchtimes, and extracurricular activities, unless otherwise authorised by school management.

General Rule

Students are not permitted to use or access personal mobile phones, smart watches, or smart devices at any time during the school day. The mobile phone pouches block mobile phone signals.

At the beginning of the school day, students must place their phone and/or smart watch/device into their pouch and seal it at one of the locking stations. The pouch must remain sealed until the end of the school day. This includes during any after-school clubs that happen on school grounds.

This policy also applies to students attending/travelling to/from off-campus school events such as sports matches unless, as approved by school management, it is felt they require their phones for health and safety or payment purposes.

Secure Pouches

- Each student will be issued with a lockable pouch at the start of the year. Any loss or damage to a pouch, which renders it unusable, will result in the student purchasing a new one at a cost of €20.



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- Phones, smart watches, and smart devices must all be placed into the pouch and sealed at the beginning of the school day
- In the event that a student forgets their pouch, they need to inform a member of staff, and they will receive a temporary pouch for use that day, or the phone will be stored in the school office
- The pouch must be presented sealed upon request from a member of staff (as checks will be carried out from time to time to ensure compliance with the policy).
- If a student is leaving early or arriving late they must call to the office to get their device pouched or unpouched while signing in/out.

Breaches of Policy

If a student has an unpouched phone and/or smart watches and/or other personal smart devices that have communication, recording, or internet capabilities in their possession during the school day this will be considered as a serious breach of the school's mobile phone policy and will result in a minimum one-day suspension from school, in line with the school's Code of Behaviour which outlines the school's policy on suspensions.

Persistent breaches by students of this policy will be dealt with in line with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Parent/Guardian Communication

The mobile phone pouches block mobile phone signals. Parents/guardians should not contact students directly on their devices during the school day. All urgent communication must go through the school office 01(8720781). If a student needs to contact home this will be facilitated through the office.

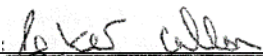
If there is a certified medical reason why a student may need temporary access to a smart device during the course of the school day, the parent/guardian of that student can make an appointment with the school principal to discuss this matter.

Liability

The school accepts no responsibility whatsoever for loss, theft, or damage to mobile phones, smart watches, or all other smart devices. Responsibility lies solely with students and parents/guardians.

Implementation and Review

This policy will be circulated to all staff, parents/guardians, and students. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Management

Signed: 
Mr. Peter Callan (BoM Chairperson)

Date: 27/08/2026