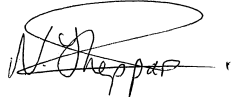




# Device Policy

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Signature:	
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# 1. Core Principles

In accordance with Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and statutory Department for Education (DfE) mandates, Carisbrooke College operates as a mobile device-free environment by default. This policy underpins our core motto, "Education is Our Castle," by securing a safe, distraction-free environment that maximises learning focus and fosters positive, face-to-face social interactions.

This policy applies to all students while on the school site during the statutory school day, including during lessons, between classes, and at break or lunch times.

# 2. The QuietCase System & Daily Routines

To ensure students maintain possession of their personal property for safety during commutes while eliminating digital disruptions during the school day, Carisbrooke College utilises the QuietCase system.

## Scope of Technology

The requirements of this policy apply strictly to the following personal electronic items:

- Mobile phones (including secondary or "burner" devices).
- Smartwatches.
- Headphones/earbuds.

## Daily Logistics & Routine

- **Morning Line-Up:** As part of the standard morning line-up routine, all students must turn off their mobile phones, smartwatches, and headphones, place them securely inside their issued QuietCase pouch, and lock it.
- **During the School Day:** The locked pouch must remain safely inside the student's school bag at all times. The students are responsible for their devices throughout the day.
- **Dismissal:** At the end of the school day, students will use unlocking stations located outside in secure boxes at school exits to unlock their pouches as they leave the site.

## Equipment Ownership & Care

- **School Property:** QuietCase pouches are school property. Aligning with our core value of sustainability, pouches are designed to last the student's entire tenure at secondary school; they will be collected, cleaned, and reused after Year 11.
- **No Modifications:** Students are strictly prohibited from decorating, defacing, or altering their cases.
- **Replacement Fees:** The initial pouch is provided fully school-funded. If a pouch is lost or intentionally damaged, the parent/carer will be required to pay an £18 replacement fee.
- **Pouch Refusal:** If a student does not have a pouch or refuses to use it, their devices must be handed directly to their Head of Year every morning to be locked away securely, which may delay their exit at dismissal.

## 3. Policy Accommodations & Exceptions

### Medical Accommodations

Students who require immediate phone access for verified medical reasons (e.g. blood sugar monitoring for diabetes) will be granted formal adaptations. These students are permitted to keep their QuietCase zip unlocked. However, the device must only be used for its approved medical purpose; any unrelated or inappropriate usage will be treated as a standard policy breach.

### School Trips and Off-Site Activities

The application of this policy on school trips depends entirely on the nature of the supervision:

- **Fully Supervised Trips:** If an excursion is fully supervised by staff at all times, devices will remain safely locked away in pouches.
- **Unsupervised/Free Time Trips:** If a trip includes designated "free" or unsupervised periods, students will be permitted to unlock their devices to maintain a direct line of contact with staff for safety.
- The specific device plan will be evaluated by the Trip Leader and communicated to parents and students in advance.

### Emergency Communication & Privacy

- **Urgent Contact Home:** If a student needs to contact home during the school day, they must notify a staff member. To respect student privacy, staff will provide access to a school phone in a quiet space.
- **School-Wide Emergencies:** In the event of a school emergency or lockdown, students must follow staff instructions immediately. Students must not attempt to bypass pouches to contact parents, as unverified external communication spreads misinformation, distracts from safety procedures, and jams critical phone networks. The school maintains dedicated protocols to update families directly.

## 4. Enforcement & Behaviour Consequences

Failing to engage honestly with the device policy constitutes a breach of school rules. Boundaries tested through non-compliance will be met with firm, consistent sanctions.

Consistent with the school's Choice, Chance, Consequence model, infractions are classified and logged in Arbor. The sanctions will be in line with C3 infractions with a stepped approach to the severity of sanctions which may end in suspension.

### Search Accountabilities

If a member of staff reasonably suspects a student is violating this policy or bypassing rules via a secondary device, the student will be required to prove their devices inside their pouch are operational. In line with DfE guidelines and our behavior policy, a formal bag and blazer search will be conducted by two staff members to ensure an appropriate witness is present. Banned or non-compliant items will be confiscated with parents and carers contacted to come and collect the devices.