



June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Updates from the Principals

As we prepare for September, we would like to share some important updates. Our students wear their Minsthorpe Uniform with pride. Please read the enclosed **Uniform Leaflet** before purchasing uniform ahead of the new academic year.

Attendance continues to improve and we thank you for supporting your child to attend every lesson every day. A reminder of **penalty notices for term-time holidays** is included.

Mobile Phone Policy – September 2026



At Minsthorpe Community College, we are committed to providing a **safe and calm learning environment** for all students through our **BE FAIR** and **BE FAIR Everywhere** expectations. As you will be aware, the Government has published statutory guidance which schools across the country must follow in terms of schools being a 'mobile phone free environment'. To support this, we have reviewed and strengthened our Mobile Phone Policy for students in Years 7–11.

The changes will take effect in September 2026. We will be introducing students to these changes in assemblies this half term. **From September 2026, Minsthorpe Community College will be a 'no phone zone' for students in Years 7 – 11.**

Key Expectations

Students must **not use mobile phones at any time** during the college day.

This includes:

- When entering the site and waiting in their morning queues
- During lessons and lesson changeovers
- During breaks
- During detentions, commitment sessions and enrichment
- Until they leave the building at the end of the day

Phones must be **switched off**, kept in **bags (not in pockets)**, and **not used** as watches, timers, calculators or research and revision tools in lessons.

Sanctions

If a student is seen with their mobile phone during the day, it will always be confiscated.

- **First offence:** the phone will be **confiscated** and must be collected by the student from the Hub at the end of the day.
- **Repeated offences:** the same process applies; however, **three confiscations in a term will result in isolation.**

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Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, WF9 2UJ T. 01977 657600 E. enquiries@minsthorpe.cc **minsthorpe.cc**

Principals Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt



Refusal to hand in a mobile phone will be sanctioned with an escalation of sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Serious Misuse

Serious misuse, such as bullying or harassment, recording staff or students or sharing harmful or inappropriate content, will continue to be sanctioned with isolation, suspension or off-site direction. Illegal misuse will be referred to **West Yorkshire Police**.

Handing in a mobile phone

As they do now, students will hand in their phone when leaving a lesson to use the toilet, when entering the MID Room, Removal Room, Stepback or RESET and when borrowing uniform items. If a student cannot hand in a phone, they will be 'scanned'. Refusal to be 'scanned' will be sanctioned with isolation.

Staying in contact with your child

We understand that mobile phones are important way for you to stay in contact with your child and to check they are safe, particularly on their journey to and from school. If your child needs to reach you urgently during the day, they must go to the Uniform Room, where a member of staff will contact you, if appropriate. Similarly, if you require an urgent message sending to your child, please contact the College in the usual ways via the App, email enquires@minsthorpe.cc or phone on 01977 657600.

Thank You for Your Support

We are confident that our students will understand the changes and follow the BE FAIR expectations, as they do now. We thank you in anticipation of your support in the consistent application of the policy.

If you wish to read the full policy in detail, please refer to the College website. [Minsthorpe Community College - Statutory Policies and Publications](#)

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gilmore
Principal

Mrs R. A Merritt
Principal

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