



Monday, 29th June 2026

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Mobile Phones in School - Update

Thank you to those parents/carers who responded to our request for feedback on the requirement to ensure that school is completely mobile phone free. Government guidance was updated in April to state that all schools should be 'mobile phone free, by default' - this includes smart devices such as smart watches.

The law has been updated from today, so that the guidance is backed up by the Children's Wellbeing & Schools Act (section 36). **This means that all schools must be mobile phone free from today**, meaning that they should not be seen or heard at all during the school day, at any time. Ofsted will check this when they inspect schools, and Local Authority advisers will do the same. Schools are responsible for ensuring phones are completely out of sight at all times.

The reasons for this are to minimise classroom disruptions, raise academic focus, protect pupil mental health, and decrease instances of cyberbullying. We now know that sustained use of internet-enabled smart devices is harmful to children and young people for various reasons, and governments around the world are responding to this. In our context, we know that phones are a major distraction from learning and can pose a safeguarding risk.

After consulting parents/carers, staff and pupils, several important points came through feedback, including:

- **Pupils** are aware of the issues that are having a negative impact on them, including distractions from learning. Their main concerns (not specifically in school) are cyberbullying and other people being able to take photos/videos of them.
- **Pupils'** main reason for bringing a phone to school is for safety (for example, so that they can contact parents/carers before/after school).
- Many **parents/carers** feel they would like their child to be able to bring a phone to school for safety, but support this not being seen or heard whilst in school.
- **Staff** feel that phones are a major distraction and that pupils having them easily accessible in school is often leading to challenging conversations that are wasting learning time and impacting their relationships with pupils.
- The majority of **parents/carers** would prefer us to have an 'out of sight and not heard' policy; fewer would prefer school staff to collect in pupil phones on arrival and give these back at the end of the day, and fewer would prefer lockable pouches. The remainder of parents/carers would prefer a full ban on phones in school.

We have considered the feedback from all stakeholders and have taken the decision to continue with the basic premise of our current policy (**not seen or heard at all whilst in school**) but to strengthen this. This supports the wish to bring a phone to school for safety on the way to/from school. However, we must strengthen our approach, as, too often, pupils try to look at phones whilst in school, whether this be under a desk, in the toilets or at break/lunchtime when they think nobody will notice. Our staff are spending too much time dealing with this.





We have written a new Mobile Phone Policy to strengthen our approach and **ensure school is completely 'mobile phone free'**, as required by the law. We will share a link to this with you as soon as it is on our website. Important points from the new policy include:

- Pupil mobile phones and other smart/internet-enabled devices (such as smart watches and earphones/earbuds) should **not be heard or seen at all whilst on school grounds**
- Pupil mobile phones should be **kept in bags (not pockets)** and **switched off** whilst in school
- Contact with parents/carers in an emergency whilst in school should be made through an adult in school on a school phone, and **parents/carers should not contact pupils on their phone whilst at school**, but should contact the office if a message needs to be relayed (this is explicit in the Government guidance)
- If a mobile phone, smart watch or earphones/earbuds are seen/heard in school, **they will be confiscated**, and parents will be sent a text. Pupils can collect the phone/item at the end of the day from their Pupil Support Manager and will have a lunchtime detention.
- **Repeat confiscations will result in an escalation of interventions and sanctions**, including after-school detentions, parent meetings, and the requirement to hand the phone in at the start of the day.

We need your help! It is crucial that you talk to your child (as we will be doing in school) about this new requirement, as we all need to know the policy to ensure the school is mobile phone free and, more importantly, we need parental support. We believe this is the right thing to do, not just a law, and we need to protect our young people's learning. If we cannot work together as a community to ensure the school is phone-free this way, we will have to consider an alternative approach, but we have faith that this will work as it does in other schools.

We will be communicating the strengthened policy and tighter approach to pupils on Friday this week, to ensure it can be fully launched on **Monday 6th July**. This gives parents/carers time to have conversations at home and ensure that phones can be switched off and in bags before pupils enter the site next Monday, and stay there during the day.

Yours sincerely,

Greenwood

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher

