

29 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you on the latest government announcement regarding mobile phone use in schools and to outline how we, as a school community, will continue to support these expectations to ensure the very best learning environment for our students.

Government Announcement

On **19 January 2026**, the Department for Education (DfE) issued strengthened guidance stating that **all schools should be mobile phone free environments by default**. This means pupils must not use mobile phones *at any point during the school day*, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, and the time between lessons.

Official DfE Guidance: [Mobile phones in schools – GOV.UK](#) [[Document](#) | [Word](#)]

This national guidance aims to reduce distraction, promote good behaviour, and improve student wellbeing. It also applies to **smart devices with similar functions**, such as those capable of messaging, notifications, or recordings.

Ofsted's Role

From **April 2026**, Ofsted will check each school's mobile phone policy as part of inspection activities. This includes how well expectations are communicated and how consistently they are followed.

Ofsted/Schools Week Summary: [New mobile phone guidance – Schools Week](#)

Ofsted Blog: [Updated guidance and school inspections \[gov.uk\]](#) [[schoolsweek.co.uk](#)]

Why This Matters

The strengthened national position reflects concerns around:

- The disruptive impact of phones on concentration and learning
- Student wellbeing, including the risk of exposure to online harms
- The need for calm, focused school environments

Research cited by the Children's Commissioner found that while many schools already restrict phones, inconsistency remains nationwide—this update aims to address that. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

What This Means for Our School

In line with the national guidance:

- Students must **not use mobile phones at any time during the school day and whilst on school site (in/out of the building)**. If students' want to use their phone outside of the school day they must do so beyond the school boundary fence.
- Phones should be **switched off and stored away** in their bags and **not on their person**.
- Phones must **not be used** as calculators, cameras, or for internet access during learning or free time, as emphasised by the Education Secretary. *Source:* [The Independent – Education Secretary call for total ban \[educationi...log.gov.uk\]](#)

- Any breaches of the policy will be dealt with consistently, in line with our behaviour for learning framework. This includes confiscation until the end of the school day and an after-school detention issued.

How You Can Support Us

We kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Reinforce the message that phones should not be used in school
- Ensure your child understands the policy before coming to school
- Contact the school reception directly for urgent messages rather than messaging your child during the day

Your support helps us maintain a safe, focused environment where students can learn and thrive. If you have any questions about the updated policy or its implementation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



R Walkden
Headteacher



