



15th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you concerning the recent publication from the Department for Education on the prohibition of the use of mobile phones in school. Although at this juncture, we do not yet have all the answers, I felt it important to update you on how this will affect our school moving forward and our intended response.

As a leadership team, we have read, digested and understood the DfE guidance around use of mobile phones in school and recognise that by September 1st we will have to make some significant changes to our policy. In short, the DfE expects:

- all schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar smart devices throughout the school day, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes and between lessons.
- schools to reference clearly the prohibition of mobile phones in their behaviour policy, apply this policy consistently and communicate this well to students and parents

The DfE has given schools the autonomy to implement this directive in the most appropriate way for them, whether this is requiring phones to be handed in, stored in lockers to be kept securely out of the way or through another mechanism and we have been researching the most suitable option for our school and Trust over recent months. I am mindful that we are a rural school and many students travel some distance to us and therefore will not be stipulating that all children must simply 'leave their phone at home'. I recognise for parents that this could be a safeguarding concern and one which would not work for our setting.

We will write to parents again once we have confirmed which option we will proceed with and we will have a careful implementation plan to make sure students are clear of the expectations. May I emphasise that the DfE allow schools to make exceptions where required by law to support pupils with disabilities or medical conditions so please do not be concerned if your child needs to use their phone for e.g. diabetes monitoring. This will be carefully considered and a plan put in place.

We are already a "no phones school" where students are not allowed to use their mobile phone during break, lunch or lesson time however the DfE makes it clear that a "not seen, not heard" policy is no longer acceptable so there will be some changes that need to be made. I don't under-estimate the magnitude of the challenge that lies ahead for schools nationally to implement this, but we are committed to getting this right to benefit the children of our community.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs
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