



20 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, we have been reviewing our smartphone policy over the course of the year. Following extensive reflection, consultation with parents, and consideration of national guidance, I am writing to outline important changes to our approach to smartphones in school that will come into place from September, 2026.

Why the change?

Our foremost responsibility is the safety, wellbeing and success of every child in our care. Over recent months, several factors have made it clear that we need to strengthen our approach:

- **Safeguarding concerns:** Smartphones can expose young people to harmful online content, encourage addictive behaviours, and are frequently linked to incidents of cyberbullying.
- **Clear parental support:** A recent parent survey showed overwhelming support for a stricter approach to smartphone use in school.
- **Expert guidance:** We hosted a parental forum with Charlotte from *Smartphone Free Childhood*, whose evidence-based presentation highlighted the risks associated with early and unrestricted smartphone use.
- **National direction:** There is an increasing expectation across education and government that schools take decisive action to restrict or fully remove smartphones from the school day. This is reflected in the DFE guidance that was updated in February 2026 ([Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)), and is now enshrined in law through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill 2026 ([Phones to be banned in schools by law in England under government plans - BBC News](#)).
- **Impact on learning:** Even when not in use, the presence of a smartphone can significantly distract students, reducing focus and engagement in lessons.

Within our own school, we have seen:

- Over 2,000 phone confiscations this year alone
- Around half of our students in Years 7-11 have had their phone confiscated over the course of the academic year.
- Regular incidents of cyberbullying, often involving smartphone use as either the root cause, or an exacerbating factor.

These trends are deeply concerning and reinforce the need for decisive action.

Our new approach

After careful consideration, we will be implementing a full smartphone and smart watch ban as detailed below.



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From September 2026

Year 7 students:

- A **full smartphone and smart device ban** will be in place.
- Students will not be permitted to bring smartphones or smart devices into school.

Years 8–11:

- A **full smart device ban** with the exception of smartphones.
- We **strongly discourage** students from bringing smartphones into school.
- If a device is needed for communication, we recommend a **basic (non-smart) phone**.
- If a smartphone is brought into school, it must be:
 - **Switched off**
 - **Stored in bags (not in clothing)** between 8:45am and 3:15pm
- Any phone seen or used during the day will be **confiscated** for a significant period of time. A parent/carer will be required to collect the item at the end of the confiscation period. The confiscated period will increase across the year and will include weekends and school holidays:
 - Autumn term: 1 week
 - Spring term: 2 weeks
 - Summer term: 3 weeks

From September 2027

There will be a full smartphone and smart device ban for all students in the main school (Years 7–11).

Supporting families

We recognise that this is a significant change, and that families will have different perspectives – often determined by the age of your child(ren). Our intention is not to make life more difficult, but to create an environment where:

- Young people are **better protected**.
- Students are **free from digital distractions**.
- Learning is **maximised**.
- Social interactions are **healthier and more positive**.

To support you further:

- We are hosting a presentation by Charlotte Ashton from *Smartphone Free Childhood* at our upcoming Year 6 Parents' Evening on 24 June (5:00–5:50pm), open to all parents who wish to attend but targeted specifically at incoming Year 7 parents.
- We have created a separate area on our website with key information relating to the potential harmful impact that smartphones have on young people, and with an FAQ section to address the questions that we know you may have. This page will go live later this week and will be updated over time.





We strongly recommend the increasingly accepted guidance that children should **not have a smartphone before the age of 14** and should avoid **social media until at least age 16**.

Working together

We understand that parents and carers may have questions, concerns, or wish to discuss how this applies to their child. We welcome these conversations and are committed to working in partnership with you. We will host a parent forum on **Tuesday 9th June 5-6pm** to allow further discussion, particularly as we finalise our policies and procedures for next year. To sign up for the event, please complete the short MS Form here - [Smartphone Forum sign up](#).

Ultimately, this policy is about doing what is right for our students—supporting their wellbeing, protecting them from harm, and giving them the very best opportunity to succeed.

Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Mr D Bedford
Headteacher

