

7 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Mobile Phones, Smart Devices and Student Lockers

From September 2026, our school will be implementing updated expectations in line with the Department for Education's guidance on mobile phones in schools.

The guidance expects schools to provide a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. This means that students should not have access to mobile phones during lessons, between lessons, at breaktimes or at lunchtime. The guidance also applies to smart devices with similar functions, including smartwatches and other wearable technology that can send messages, make calls, access the internet or record audio or video.

Why are we making this change?

Research and national guidance highlight a number of benefits of limiting access to mobile phones during the school day, including:

- Improving concentration and engagement in learning.
- Reducing distractions in lessons.
- Supporting positive social interaction during breaks and lunchtimes.
- Helping to reduce issues linked to cyberbullying, online conflict and inappropriate use of technology.
- Promoting students' wellbeing and creating a calmer school environment.

Our aim is to ensure that every student can learn, socialise and thrive without the distractions that mobile devices can sometimes create.

What does this mean for your child?

Your child may still bring a mobile phone to school if it is needed for their journey to and from school. However, from the start of the school day until dismissal, mobile phones, smartwatches and other smart devices must not be used or accessed.



To support this, any student who brings a mobile phone or smart device into school must store it securely in their allocated locker immediately on arrival. Devices must be switched off before being placed in the locker and must remain there until the end of the school day, when they may be collected before students leave the school site.

Any student who accesses or uses a mobile phone or smart device during the school day will be dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, which may include confiscation of the device and other appropriate sanctions.

Supporting students throughout the school day

To ensure students can access important information without relying on their mobile phones, every student will be provided with a student planner from September. As well as recording homework and key reminders, the planner will contain your child's timetable, enabling them to check where they need to be throughout the school day without needing to access a mobile device.

We will also continue to use the EduLink app as our main platform for communicating key school information. Parents can continue to access attendance, timetables, homework and other important information through EduLink, and students will be able to view this information from home using their own devices outside of the school day.

Student lockers

To enable students to store their mobile phones and other permitted valuables safely during the school day, lockers are available to hire.

If your child already has an allocated locker, they do not need to hire another one. They should simply ensure they have a working locker key ready for September. If a replacement key is required, this can be purchased at a cost of £7.50.

From September 2026, students who require a new locker will be able to hire one for £10.00. This includes a £5.00 refundable deposit, which will be returned when your child leaves the school, provided the locker and key are returned in good condition.

The remaining £5.00 contributes towards the ongoing maintenance of the locker system, including the cost of general wear and tear over time.

Should a locker key be lost during the hire period, a £7.50 replacement charge will apply. This reflects the cost of ordering and supplying a new key, including postage, which currently costs the school £4.95 per key before the cost of the replacement key itself is taken into account.

Locker hire and replacement keys can be purchased via ParentPay. Once payment for a new locker has been received, your child will be allocated a locker and issued with a key.



Keeping in touch

We understand that parents and carers may occasionally need to contact their child during the school day. If there is an urgent message, please contact the school office and we will ensure that information is passed on promptly. Likewise, if your child needs to contact home, they will be supported to do so through the school office.

Supporting our young people

We recognise that mobile phones play an important role in modern life, and we will continue to educate students about the safe, responsible and respectful use of technology through our curriculum. By working together with families, we can help young people develop healthy digital habits while ensuring school remains a place where learning comes first.

Exceptions

Where a student requires access to a mobile device for medical reasons or another agreed exceptional circumstance, appropriate arrangements will be made in consultation with parents or carers.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a positive, focused and safe learning environment for all our students. We appreciate your support in making this new initiative a success.

Yours faithfully

Mrs R Kelly
Headteacher

