



Ready, Respectful, Resilient

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mobile Phone Expectations from September

At our school, we are committed to providing a calm, focused and safe learning environment where every child can thrive. To support this, we will be implementing a **mobile phone-free school day** in line with Department for Education guidance.

From **September**, students who bring a mobile phone to school must ensure that it is **switched off and kept out of sight, in bags or lockers, throughout the entire school day**, including before school, during lessons, at break and lunchtime, and between lessons. Mobile phones must not be used anywhere on the school site during the school day. We would encourage phones to be left at home as contact can always be made via the school office. Parents and students should be aware that bringing a mobile phone into school is at the owner's risk. **The school cannot accept any liability for any loss, theft or damage to mobile devices.**

If a student needs to contact home during the school day, or if you need to contact your child urgently, this should be done through the school office. Our staff will ensure that important messages are passed on promptly.

Research and national guidance highlight that limiting access to mobile phones during the school day helps to:

National Guidance and Rationale

This decision aligns fully with the Department for Education's guidance [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612212/mobile-phones-in-schools-guidance.pdf) (Feb 2026) which states "All schools should be mobile phone free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only." The guidance recommends that schools prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the entire school day, including lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes, as part of a strong behaviour policy that supports pupils' learning, wellbeing and safety.

Evidence consistently highlights two key concerns:

1. Learning and Academic Performance

The DfE guidance is clear that: “Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. One in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission.”

Research by Beland and Murphy (2015), examining schools in Birmingham, Leicester, London and Manchester, found that student performance in high-stakes examinations improved significantly following a mobile phone ban, with the greatest gains seen among lower achieving pupils.

2. Mental Health and Wellbeing

National data shows that three in ten pupils identify mental health or friendships as a major cause of worry, anxiety or depression. Removing mobile phones from the school day enables pupils to spend more time interacting face-to-face, staying active and socialising positively — all of which are shown to improve wellbeing. Research by psychologist Jean Twenge also found that:

- Around four hours of smartphone use per day is associated with lower psychological wellbeing
- More than seven hours per day dramatically increases the likelihood of lower mental health and mood.

Students who do not follow the school's mobile phone policy will have their phone confiscated and sanctions applied in line with our Behaviour Policy. Parents/responsible adult will be requested to collect the phone from school. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child before they come to school each day.

As outlined in our Behaviour Policy, mobile phones are identified as an item that may be searched for where authorised staff have reasonable grounds to believe a student is in possession of a phone and is in breach of the school's rules. Where a search of a pupil is required, this will only take place where authorised staff have lawful powers to do so and, in accordance with the Department for Education's Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance. Searches will always be conducted in a respectful, lawful and proportionate manner. Failure to comply with staff instructions regarding a mobile phone may result in further sanctions.

To support the consistent implementation of this policy, the school may from time to time undertake proportionate screening using handheld metal-detection equipment. These checks are non-contact, do not require the removal of clothing and will be carried out respectfully by authorised staff in accordance with Department for Education guidance and the school's Behaviour Policy.

We recognise that some students may require access to a mobile phone for medical or other exceptional circumstances. Appropriate arrangements will be made on an individual basis where necessary, in line with our legal responsibilities.

We value the partnership between home and school and thank you for your continued support in helping us create a calmer, safer and more focussed learning environment for all our students.

If you have any questions about the policy, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs T Price
Headteacher