



Head teacher / Prifathro: Mr. Ryan Davies MEd

Dear Parent/Carer,

There is strong evidence that reducing mobile phone use in schools improves pupil wellbeing, focus, behaviour, and academic progress. Schools with stricter phone policies often report higher engagement in lessons, fewer online conflicts, and calmer, more connected learning environments.

After listening to the views of parents and pupils, we have updated our **Mobile Phone Policy**, which will come into effect on **Monday 2nd September 2025**. Rather than an outright ban, we are asking pupils to only bring phones if absolutely necessary, and to keep them **switched off and in their bags** throughout the school day.

Where Should Phones Be Kept?

Phones must be **switched off and stored in school bags**, not pockets, from arrival until the end of the school day. **Where possible, we strongly encourage pupils to leave phones at home**. We understand that some families rely on phones for travel or safety before and after school but reducing their presence on site helps avoid distraction and misuse. To ensure pupils know what lesson they have, they will be given paper copies of their timetable, and they may wish to make an additional copy in a notebook or diary of their own. Homework will continue to be put on Google Classroom.

Why Are We Doing This?

- **Wellbeing:** Constant notifications and social media can raise anxiety and reduce focus. A break from screens supports better routines and mental health.
- **Learning:** Reducing phone use leads to better concentration, improved academic outcomes, and more time on task.
- **Behaviour & Safety:** Fewer phones mean fewer incidents of cyberbullying and more positive, face-to-face social interaction.

Key Expectations from September

- Pupils must bring a school bag each day and, if they choose to bring mobile phones, wireless headphones, or smartwatches, these must be stored in their bag at all times.
- The policy also applies to school trips unless staff say otherwise.
- Communication to and from parents / carers should be through the Pupil Hub.

What Happens If a Phone / device Is Seen or Heard?

1. First Incident (per half term)

- Item will be confiscated and stored in the **Pupil Hub**
- Device returned to the pupil at the end of the day
- Logged as a B4 on Class Charts

2. Second Incident

- Item will be confiscated and stored in the **Pupil Hub**
- Must be collected by a **parent or carer**
- Logged as a B4 & an after-school reflection issued

Further Incidents

- Parents and pupils will be asked to sign an agreement for the phone to be left at home or handed into the Pupil Hub each morning.

Please note that if pupils refuse to hand over a device that is seen or heard, they will be issued a **B5** and placed in the Ready to Learn Room.

The Importance of Home-School Partnership

Research from organisations such as the **OECD**, **UNICEF**, and **Childnet** shows that a consistent approach between school and home helps young people build healthier digital habits and reduces anxiety. Your support in reinforcing expectations, setting clear boundaries, and modelling balanced device use is vital.

How Parents Can Help at Home?

- Set screen-free times (e.g. during meals, homework, and bedtime)
- Talk openly about online life – the positives and the challenges
- Use screen-time and content settings
- Model healthy phone habits
- Delay smartphone use until your child is emotionally ready

Emergencies and Special Arrangements

- **Need to contact your child?** Call the school office.
- **Child needs to contact home?** They can speak to staff and use a phone at the **Pupil Hub** or their **Year Team Office** which will be in a private room if necessary.
- **Medical or ALN?** Please speak to your child's **Head of Year** to make an exemption arrangement.

Uniform expectations

Please could I also take this opportunity to remind you of some key uniform expectations as we prepare for the new school year in September.

One area that continues to be a challenge is the length of skirts. Skirts should be no more than 5cm above the knee. We kindly ask that you take this into consideration if purchasing new uniform items over the summer.

Additionally, school shoes must be black and made from leather or leather-like material. Trainer-style fabric shoes are not permitted.

A gentle reminder too that facial piercings are not allowed in school.

Full details of our school uniform policy can be found on our website. Please note that pupils not wearing full school uniform, without a note from a parent or carer, will be placed in the Ready to Learn room until appropriate uniform is brought in, borrowed, or any facial piercings are removed.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school community an inclusive and safe learning environment for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Rees', written in a cursive style.

Edward Rees
Assistant Headteacher