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Headteacher: Mr D M Planter

27 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mobile Phones Update

You may have heard through the national media outlets that the DfE have continued to change and strengthen their position on mobile phones and smartwatches in schools from September 2027, with increased clarity on the expectation for all schools to make devices completely inaccessible to students throughout the school day.

We introduced a new policy in September 2025 after consultation with stakeholders that was based upon our Alive Values and considerate to our context. We are very proud of our students who make good choices and exercise self-control every day by making sure their phones not accessed by using their bags or lockers. No system is foolproof, but our students make good choices and mobile phone use or incidents are rare.

We undertook stakeholder review last summer, in which we found:

- 97% of students understand the rules
- 85% of students understand why it is important, even if they don't agree
- 91% of students and 100% of parents/carers agree the policy means students do not have access to their phones

Whilst it is rare to see the mobile phone rules being broken, we are currently researching the best approach to ensuring that mobile phones are completely inaccessible to all students from September 2027. Schools across the country have approached this in different ways over the last couple of years, some purchasing lockers or pouches, others expecting parents/carers to purchase pouches, and some schools using apps to 'black-out' mobile phone usage.

We wanted to take this opportunity to share that although we continue to be pleased with students' response to our Alive values-based policy, we will be changing the policy from September to ensure that we are meeting the new expectations of the DfE. Whilst the Government have set out their expectations for all schools to ensure a system such as pouches or lockers are in place by September, they have not shown any indication that they are willing to fund this. We are working with a range of partners to explore a sustainable approach. We would be interested to hear from you if you are connected to or aware of companies that may be willing to provide sponsorship to support this.

We will communicate more details about the new policy in due course. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Morgan
Deputy Headteacher