



Pickhurst Academy
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26th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Update on Mobile Phone Use in School

I am writing to share important new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding mobile phone use in schools. As always, our priority is to ensure a safe, calm and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

At the start of the school year, we spoke about encouraging children to bring only basic mobile phones that **cannot access the internet**. This remains an important part of helping to protect children from online risks and distractions while allowing them a way to contact home if needed.

The DfE has now issued **updated national guidance** reinforcing the importance of limiting mobile phone use in schools. The latest guidance makes it clear that:

- **All schools should be “mobile-phone-free environments by default.”** This applies throughout the school day, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes and the time between lessons.
- Schools are expected to **prohibit the use of mobile phones and similar smart devices** (including anything capable of messaging, notifications, recording audio/video, or accessing mobile networks) during the entire school day.
- The guidance supports schools in creating calm, focused learning environments that minimise distraction and support children’s wellbeing.
- Ofsted will now consider each school’s mobile phone policy, and how effectively it is followed, during every inspection.

You can read the full DfE guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools/mobile-phones-in-schools>

What This Means for Our School

We remain fully committed to:

- **Keeping every child safe**, both online and offline.
- Ensuring a **calm, disruption-free learning environment**.
- Supporting pupils to use technology responsibly.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Rampton

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In line with the updated guidance, we will continue to expect that:

- Mobile phones are **not used, seen, or heard** anywhere in school during the day.
- Children are expected to hand their mobile phones to the teacher on arrival and locked away until the end of the school day, when they are handed back.
- Children should ideally bring only **basic phones without internet access**, if a phone is needed at all.
- Any phones brought to school must remain **switched off and stored away** following our existing procedures.
- If children are seen with a mobile phone, having not followed our procedures, this will be confiscated and the parent/carer notified. The parent/carer will be expected to collect the phone from the school.

These expectations help us reduce distractions, minimise safeguarding risks, and ensure that children can focus fully on learning and healthy social interaction throughout the school day.

We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home. By working together, we can create the safest and most supportive environment for all children.

If you have any questions about the updated guidance or our school procedures, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr Hetherington
Head of Year 6

Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Rampton

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