



Ms Alison Pope, Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mobile Phones in School

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a calm, safe and focused learning environment, we are writing to clarify our expectations around mobile phones. This is also to ensure we remain fully in line with national guidance from the Department for Education.

From September, no pupil in Primary (**up to and including year 5**) should bring a mobile phone into school.

- If a phone is brought into school, it must be handed in at the start of the day to the class teacher (Primary) or form tutor (Secondary).
- Phones will be stored safely in locked phone safes within classrooms and returned at the end of the day.

If a phone is brought into school, it is done at the pupil's own risk.

Parent Declaration – Mobile Phones from September

To support us in implementing this consistently, we ask all parents and carers to complete a short form confirming whether their child will be bringing a mobile phone into school from September.

Please complete the form here:

👉 [Mobile Phone Declaration for Students \(September 2026\) – Fill out form](#)

This will help us:

- Ensure all staff are aware of which pupils may have a phone
- Put appropriate arrangements in place from the first day of term
- Communicate clearly and consistently with pupils

Why are we taking this approach?

This decision is grounded in national guidance and research.

The Department for Education states that schools should be “mobile phone-free environments by default”, with pupils not accessing phones at any point in the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](#)

Ofsted also recognises that mobile phones can be highly disruptive to learning and expects schools to enforce clear policies consistently. [\[educationi...log.gov.uk\]](#)

You can read more here:

- [Mobile phones in schools – GOV.UK](#)
- [Ofsted blog on mobile phone guidance](#)

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- [Parliament briefing on mobile phones in schools](#)

Research and parental feedback also highlight wider concerns:

- Mobile phones can disrupt attention and learning [\[oneeducation.co.uk\]](#)
- There are risks related to bullying, harmful content and online safety [\[childrensc...ner.gov.uk\]](#)
- A large majority of parents believe smartphones are harmful to young people [\[parentkind.org.uk\]](#)

The government plans to use the same model for a social media ban as Australia. This would capture user-to-user platforms, whose purpose is to enable social interaction and which allow users to post material, alongside algorithms. The ban will therefore include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X. This is likely to be implemented in the new year and we await further guidance.

Our reasons for limiting phone use

We want to ensure that all pupils:

- Focus fully on learning without distraction
- Interact positively face-to-face with peers
- Are safeguarded from online risks during the school day
- Avoid unnecessary anxiety linked to social media
- Develop independence without reliance on devices
- Experience a calm and purposeful school environment

Communication during the school day

Parents and carers must not contact pupils directly by phone or text during the school day, as this disrupts learning and creates safeguarding and communication challenges.

If you need to contact your child urgently:

- Please contact the school reception, and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly

This is how schools operated successfully for many years before mobile phones were widely used, and it remains the safest and most effective approach.

What if your child arrives late or needs to leave early?

Arrival after tutor time in secondary will mean that students will leave their phone with reception as they sign in. This will be stored safely until the end of the school day when they can collect it. For students that are leaving early for medical appointment, the phone will be available at reception when they sign out.

Important information about bus passes

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Where pupils require a bus pass:

- A physical bus pass will be issued, which must be used
- If a digital pass is used on a phone, the phone must still be handed in at the start of the day

Increased sanction for the use of or having a mobile phone on their person during the school day.

If a pupil does not hand in their mobile phone a serious consequence will be issued and parents contacted. This will be more than a detention.

The phone will need to be collected by a parent or carer not the pupil at the end of the day.

Guidance for Year 6 families moving to St Martins

As pupils prepare for transition to secondary school, we strongly discourage the purchase of a smartphone.

A smartphone is not required for school.

If a device is needed for travel:

- We recommend a basic mobile phone that can make calls and send messages only

This helps to:

- Support safety without unnecessary access to social media
- Reduce exposure to online risks
- Support a smooth transition into a phone-free school day

Working together

We appreciate that this may represent a change for some families. However, this reflects national guidance and what we know supports pupils' learning, wellbeing and safety.

We ask for your full support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

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

Yours sincerely

Ms Alison Pope
Headteacher

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