

29 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Mobile Phone update

We are writing to inform you of an important reinforcement of our school expectations regarding mobile phones.

Over the weekend, the Government issued strengthened and explicit national guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools in England. The Secretary of State for Education has made clear that mobile phones have no place in schools and that all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. She states that this includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. They cannot be used to check the time, check timetables, used as calculators or research tools, or even to call or text home.

As a result of this renewed clarity, mobile phones will **continue to be banned on the school site.**

Why we are talking to you about this

School staff see first-hand the impact that mobile phone use during the day can have on:

- students' concentration and learning
- behaviour between peers
- wellbeing and emotional health
- safeguarding and social dynamics

The strengthened national guidance is intended to remove doubt, support confident leadership, and establish a consistent national approach and we are supportive of this. The Government has been clear that schools should set firm boundaries, apply them consistently, and expect parental support in doing so.

We are also advised that Ofsted will now examine both schools' mobile phone policies and how effectively they are applied when judging behaviour during inspections, further reinforcing the importance of clear, consistent implementation.

What this means in practice

- Mobile phones should not be seen in school during the school day, including the sixth form study areas. This means anywhere on the school site between **8:15am - 3:20pm.**
- If a mobile phone device is seen, heard, or used on site at any point during the school day, it will be confiscated and stored securely at the school's main reception.
- Confiscated devices **will be returned to a parent or carer** following a phone call home to arrange collection, **not to students.** This will commence from **Monday 2 February 2026.**
- If a student will not hand in their phone, parents and carers will be contacted by the school.
- Repeated incidents will be addressed in line with the school's behaviour policy.

We would therefore advise families to support this expectation by ensuring that mobile phones are actually left at home wherever possible. This is the clearest and safest way to avoid any issues.

Behaviour policy and communication with students

Our Behaviour Policy will be updated to reflect this change as part of its scheduled review in the coming months, ensuring full alignment with national guidance and consistent implementation.

Tomorrow we will be speaking directly with students through a virtual assembly so that they are clear about the change, the reasons for it, and what it means in practice. (Year 10 will receive this on Monday). We welcome and value your support in discussing this change with your child/ren at home, reinforcing the message that mobile phones are not required or appropriate in school.

Working together

We recognise that embedding processes like this requires clear cooperation between school and home. Clear boundaries, applied fairly and consistently, give students the best chance to focus, feel safe and succeed. We are grateful for your support as we implement this national reset together.

If students need to contact home in an emergency, this will always be facilitated through the school in the usual way via student reception.

If the DfE alters or adjusts its position, Caroline Chisholm School will of course follow the updated national position accordingly.

Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership. By working together, we can ensure that technology supports learning and wellbeing rather than distracting from it.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of Caroline Chisholm School