



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

27 January 2026

Official Sensitive

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to update you on the Government's new mobile phone guidance for schools, published in January 2026. The Department for Education has strengthened its expectations around mobile phone use in schools, with the aim of creating calm, focused, and safe learning environments for all pupils.

Under the updated guidance, all schools in England are expected to operate as mobile-phone-free environments throughout the entire school day, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, and the periods between lessons. This reflects growing national concern about the impact of mobile phones on learning, wellbeing, and behaviour. Ofsted will now consider how effectively schools implement their mobile phone policy as part of their inspections.

What this means for our school

We are modifying our policies to follow this guidance in full. There will be a lead in time to evolve policy and process to align with new guidance, as well as to communicate to staff, students and families. Full details will follow in due course but in principle, from **June 2026** our school will adopt the following approach:

- Pupils must not use or access their mobile phones at any point during the school day
- Phones must be handed in during morning registration according to year-group procedures. They will be able to collect at the end of the school day
- Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and returned according to our behaviour policy. Sanctions will be applied to those who do not follow clear expectations around mobile phones
- Pupils who need to contact home during the day can do so via the school office
- Parents who need to reach their child should continue to contact the school directly

Support for individual needs

The guidance recognises that some pupils, particularly those with special educational needs, disabilities, or specific medical or safeguarding requirements, may need individual arrangements. If you believe your child requires such consideration, we shall provide a communication channel for you to alert us to these needs.

Why this change matters

National evidence shows that mobile phones can be a significant source of distraction and disruption in schools. The strengthened guidance aims to help schools maintain a calm, safe environment where pupils can focus on learning and social interaction.

We appreciate your support in helping us implement this updated guidance. By working together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where every child can learn, thrive, and feel safe.

Once we have finalised our policy and procedure, I will communicate our planned processes so that we can implement necessary change with clarity and consistency.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Finch
Headteacher

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BRONZE
(Academic Year)

School
Award