



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you about an important new policy we are introducing across Brindishe Schools, and to explain how we will be implementing it gradually to support our school community.

From 1 September 2026, the DfE's statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools' states that schools should be mobile phone-free 'by default'. Phone-free means mobile phones (and similar devices) are prohibited throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, break and lunchtime.

Key Statistics

Mobile phone ownership and usage:

- 97% of pupils own a mobile phone by age 12
 - 63% of 8–11-year-olds use social media and messaging apps
 - 93% of 12–15-year-olds use social media and messaging apps
- Managing mobile phones in school

Impact on wellbeing:

- 1 in 5 children (19%) aged 10–15 have experienced online bullying
- 72% of 10–15-year-olds experienced it at school or during school time
- 52% of children who experienced online bullying wouldn't describe it as bullying
- 26% didn't report their experiences
- 3 in 10 pupils cite friendships and mental health as causes of worry, anxiety or depression

The Mobile Phone Policy highlights that removing mobile phones from schools can:

- Reduce distractions and disruption
- Decrease online bullying risks
- Create more time for face-to-face socialising and exercise
- Improve pupils' focus on education
- Positively impact wellbeing and mental health

Over the last academic year school leaders have been working closely with Lewisham Local Authority, other local schools and Brindishe Parent/Carer 'Smart Phone Free' group to develop a Mobile Phone Policy. We are confident that the policy reflects our school values, meets everyone's needs and shows our commitment to keeping our children safe. It is based on the latest guidance and good practice in education.

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We are taking a gradual approach to allow everyone time to adjust and to make sure the changes work well for our school and our families. From September 2027 there will be a **total ban on mobile phones at Brindishe Schools**, and the policy will be reviewed at that time.

Timeline and Key Changes:

- **Phase 1 (from September 2026)** Introduction of the policy to all parents and carers. Only children in Year 6 may bring a mobile phone to and from school. We strongly urge Year 6 parents/carers that this is a basic 'brick' phone (if needed at all) and not a smart phone. Children will learn about the new expectations in assemblies. From September 2026, only Year 6 pupils may bring a mobile phone to school
- **Phase 2 (from September 2027)** Brindishe School will fully implement a mobile-free approach, and children will not be permitted to enter school with a mobile phone – smart phone, basic phone (without ability to use apps and/or internet), a smart watch or otherwise.

We understand that changes can raise questions. We are here to support you and your child and offer any guidance if necessary. Information sessions will be held for all parents/carers, resources will be available on our school website, and our leadership teams are available to answer any queries.

Your Feedback Matters

We want to hear your thoughts as we implement this policy and would welcome your thoughts, concerns and/or questions via an online survey. The deadline for this survey is Friday 25th September 2026.

[Mobile Phone Policy – Fill in form](#)

We truly appreciate your ongoing support as we work together to make Brindishe Schools the safest they can be for every child.

Kind regards

Rachel Waite

Executive Head