

"An Academy to be Proud of"

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Important Secondary Update: New Statutory Mobile Phone Ban in UK Schools

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to remind you about a significant regulatory change regarding the use of mobile phones in schools across England, which officially came into force this week, on Monday 29th June 2026.

Under Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the UK government has placed previous guidance onto a statutory footing. This means creating a completely phone-free environment during the school day is now a legal requirement for all state-funded schools.

While our school has always maintained strong boundaries around mobile phones, this new law requires us to standardise and strictly enforce a mobile phone free policy during the school day to ensure our pupils can learn without distraction.

What Does the New Law Mean for Our Pupils?

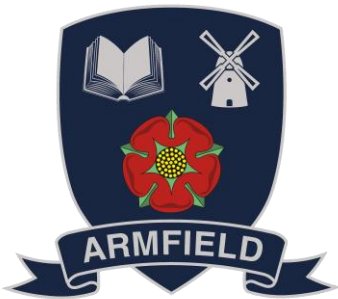
From this week, pupils are prohibited from using or accessing mobile phones and similar smart communication devices (including smartwatches that receive notifications or text messages) at any point during the school day. This includes all lesson times, changeovers between lessons, break times, and lunchtimes. All devices must be switched off and completely out of sight (stored securely in bags). Passive or relaxed enforcement is no longer permitted under the new statutory guidelines and so any use of mobile phones during the school day will mean immediate confiscation of the mobile phone and a lunchtime detention. Students who have phones confiscated will receive them back from the school office at the end of the day in the first instance but persistent use of a mobile device at school can lead to parents having to collect the phone themselves and a mobile phone ban at which point an exclusion from school may apply.

Why Is This Being Implemented?

The Department for Education and school leaders nationwide recognise that smartphones negatively affect children's attention span and heavily distract from active learning. By enforcing a unified, phone-free environment, our goal is to:

- Boost classroom focus and academic engagement.
- Encourage face-to-face social interaction and peer bonding during breaks.
- Reduce the immediate pressures of social media, cyberbullying, and screen anxiety during the school day.





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Essential Medical Exemptions

We understand that technology plays a vital role in managing certain health conditions. Under the new law, clear exemptions are safeguarded for pupils who rely on mobile apps for medical reasons (for example, monitoring blood sugar levels for type 1 diabetes). If your child requires an exemption for medical or accessibility needs, please contact their Form Tutor as soon as possible so we can ensure the appropriate provisions are noted on their profile.

Travel to and From School

Please rest assured that this law does not prevent pupils from carrying a phone for safety during their commute to and from school. We fully appreciate that parents wish to remain in contact with their children during their journeys. However, once they step onto school grounds, the device must be powered down and put away safely in their bag.

If you need to reach your child urgently during school hours, please contact the main school office directly, and a message will be passed to them immediately.

Moving Forward Together

We understand that adapting to strict digital boundaries can be a transition for some students. However, with national data showing that the vast majority of schools have already seen massive benefits to pupil wellbeing by going phone-free, we are confident this collective step will foster a much calmer, safer, and happier environment for everyone.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation in upholding these new legal standards.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J Hutchinson – Deputy Headteacher

