



27 January 2026

## Dear Parent/Guardian

You will be aware of the growing concern in the news about young people's access to social media. Their world is increasingly complex, and mobile devices and apps are changing how they interact. As a school, we are seeing more issues caused by inappropriate online behaviour, including the sharing of images, video and written abuse.

Please find a link here to a guide produced by the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, written with the help of young people, specifically for adults, entitled:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew – A Guide for parents or carers on managing their children's digital lives.](#)

While parents must manage their child's online presence, we can ensure that during the school day social media and mobile phone use is minimised, giving students a much needed break from online pressure.

From the end of February half term (23 February), we are tightening our rules on mobile devices in schools. You may be aware some schools in the local area have gone to pouches and collection boxes at the start and end of the school day. We wish to operate a procedure that works more in line with the way Bishop Rawstorne operates – a trust-based route, allowing our students to feel that they can make the correct choices without being forced to hand their phone in daily. The new rules will be as follows:

- If a student is found with their phone out on the school site during the school day, then in the first instance it will be confiscated, and a parent/guardian will have to come and collect it. It will **not** be returned to the student at the end of the day. This will be non-negotiable. If a student wishes to contact a parent/guardian, this may be carried out, on their behalf, by a member of staff. The school office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm for the collection of confiscated phones.
- On the second occasion the student will be suspended for 1 day in the first instance.
- Repeat offences will accrue greater suspensions.
- A refusal to hand over a mobile phone will also lead to a suspension.
- ANY filming of students, or staff, by use of a mobile device will lead to suspension.

Depending on the time of the incident, parents/guardians will be notified of the confiscation via either a telephone call or an alert which could come through Synergy, text message or email.

**The same rules apply to smart watches. Any device deemed to be used for anything other than telling the time will also be treated in the same manner.**

We know that young people may need their phones on the journey to and from school and that, as parents, you will feel happier with them having their device with them on that journey. However, on arrival at school, it must be switched off (**not silenced – but off**) and put into their bag. It should remain there all day.

Please avoid messaging your child during the school day, as this often causes phones to sound in class and leads to confiscation. Essential messages can be sent via the school office. We know most parents will support this small but important policy change. Please see this for what it is, a desire to make school a safer space, reducing anxiety, bullying and the pressure created by constant online access.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Duckworth  
Senior Assistant Headteacher