

13th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Madeley School, every significant decision begins with one simple question:

What is in the very best interests of our children?

Following careful consideration, I am writing to inform you that, from **the start of the new academic year in September** Madeley will introduce a new policy to ensure that pupils **do not have access to personal mobile phones during the school day** through the use of secure lockable phone pouches.

This is not a sudden change in direction. For the past three years, our Behaviour Policy has made it clear that mobile phones must not be seen or used during the school day, and the overwhelming majority of our pupils have respected this expectation.

However, experience has shown that a policy based simply on phones being "out of sight" still presents challenges. The constant temptation to check a notification, send a quick message or take an unauthorised photograph can distract from learning and create avoidable safeguarding issues. Rather than relying on pupils to resist that temptation, our new secure pouch system removes both the temptation and the opportunity to do so.

This initiative is not about banning technology. We recognise that many families wish their child to carry a mobile phone for their journey to and from school, and pupils may continue to do so. The difference is that, once they arrive at school, their phone will be secured in a lockable pouch and remain inaccessible until the end of the school day.

The Department for Education has made clear its expectation that schools should operate as mobile phone-free environments by default, recognising the positive impact this has on learning, behaviour, safeguarding and wellbeing. Having considered this guidance alongside our own values and ambitions, we believe this is the next natural step in ensuring the very best environment for every child.

Over the coming weeks, the Senior Leaders and the pastoral team will introduce the initiative through assemblies and tutor activities, explaining both the educational rationale and the practical arrangements. Students will have every opportunity to ask questions and understand how the system will work before implementation.

PRIDE & RESPECT ● CONFIDENCE ● RESILIENCE ● ASPIRATION ● POSITIVITY ● ENJOYMENT ● POLITENESS

A detailed **Frequently Asked Questions** guide accompanies this letter and explains the arrangements in more detail, including how parents can contact their child during the school day and the limited circumstances where authorised exceptions may apply.

This initiative is not about punishment. It is about protecting something incredibly valuable: our pupils' attention, their wellbeing, their friendships and their opportunity to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Madeley and our shared commitment to **Inspiring Excellence**.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Lee Nixon
Principal



