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St Michael's
Catholic Academy

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3 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on Mobile Phone Use within the Academy

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment, we are currently reviewing our policy on mobile phone usage by students within our academy.

We are considering the possibility of introducing a ban on mobile phones during the school day, and we would greatly value your input as part of this process. Your views are important to us and will help shape any decisions we make moving forward.

We kindly ask you to complete a short consultation survey to share your thoughts and perspectives. The survey will take just a few minutes and is available using the forms link below,

<https://forms.office.com/e/fHzTjrwu9y>

The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 14 November 2025.

Any changes to the policy would only begin in the Spring term, so from January 2026 onwards, at the earliest.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to contribute to this important discussion. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Humble
Headteacher



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child still bring their phone to the Academy?

Of course. Many of us are parents and we appreciate why you would want your child to have a phone on the way to or from school. They just need to be kept off and out of sight – and not used between the hours of the school day, usually 8.55am- 3.25pm.

What if I need to contact them at school?

In an emergency, simply phone the Academy office on 01642 870003 and the message will be passed to them. In fact, this is quicker than trying to contact them directly.

What if my child feels that they urgently need to contact me?

They might need me to drop something in that they have forgotten. Realistically, these occasions occur very rarely, if at all. Our staff are trained and equipped to handle most issues that can arise on any school day. However, if they desperately need to contact you between 8.55am and 3.25pm, they can speak to their PLM or Student Reception.

I am concerned about my child's phone being confiscated. How can I help them to avoid this?

The easiest way to avoid any problems is to encourage your child to get into a strict routine of turning their phone off as they approach the Academy. It should then be placed out of sight.

My child has left their phone on and needs to turn it off. What should they do?

Any member of staff can be approached about this. The student should be prompt and honest and ask the member of staff if they can turn their phone off. Speaking to a member of staff first will avoid any potential conflicts.

You are supposed to be preparing children for the world of work. Doesn't possession of a phone prepare them for the real world?

As a society, we are only now becoming aware of the full scope of what young people have been accessing online over the last few years. There is no wider place in the working world for toxic comments, threats, access to explicit material and inappropriate filming. We have been moved to a position where we feel that our students have to be protected from these issues, as have many other secondary schools across the UK. Our existing ICT resources give us all of the real-world applications that we need. We also note that many workplaces are introducing phone restrictions of their own, so in this respect, we are preparing our young people in a realistic way.

Won't this be detrimental to their learning in certain lessons?

No. The academy has more than sufficient ICT capacity. We have three computer classrooms, and the academy also has a large number of laptops which can be booked by any teacher and used in lessons.

As the restriction ends at 3.25pm, can phones be used on site after that time?

Yes, although we will take the necessary steps if we feel that they are being used to promote negative interaction between students.



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What if my child needs to tell the time?

There are clocks in every room and in the academy corridors. If a child has difficulty reading a clock face, they could always ask either other children or a member of staff.

How will I find out if my child is in detention?

If this is the case, you will always be contacted via the details you have given to us. If in any doubt, do call the school and we will verify for you.

What if the Academy needs my child to do something after school?

We will always contact you if this is the case.

What about access to my child's timetable?

This should be checked at home, when the student is preparing for the school day ahead. Students should have stuck their timetable into a planner or have a paper copy provided by their form tutor or at least made a note of it in a safe place. If this is a change for your child, we would recommend that you have one timetable on display at home, one kept in a safe place at home and one in the student's bag. They can then make a note of what they need for the day ahead.



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