



28 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

You will probably have seen in the media the letter sent to all Headteachers by Bridget Phillipson, the Secretary of State for Education on mobile phone use in schools on 26/01/2026. In it she states that *'mobile phones have no place in schools'* and *'all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day'*.

These are statements that we agree with entirely. The letter is a timely reminder of what our rules are regarding mobile phones.

As you are already aware, I would much prefer a situation whereby no pupil came into school with a mobile phone, but I completely understand that some of you want your child to have a mobile phone for safety reasons whilst they travel to and from school. If you want this for your child, I politely request that you have ongoing conversations with them to explain how important it is for you that they only contact you on their way to and from school. In other words, they:

- **MUST TURN THEIR MOBILE PHONE OFF WHEN THEY WALK INTO SCHOOL and**
- **ONLY TURN IT BACK ON AGAIN WHEN THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES**

This is the only way you can be sure they will not have their mobile phone temporarily confiscated. I make this request for a number of reasons:-

- So that **all pupils** comply with the school policy on the unauthorised use of mobile phones and therefore do not receive the sanctions that go along with this.
- So that you do not have the inconvenience of coming to school to collect the mobile phone.
- So that pupils are able to concentrate on their school day, instead of being distracted by messages or social media posts (they can be terribly distracted by this).
- So that both pupils and staff are protected against unauthorised audio or video recordings which subsequently appear on social media. Unfortunately, we have experienced examples of both in previous years. These videos can be extremely offensive and upsetting to the individuals who feature in them. Please read a DfE statement [here](#) and a news item on the BBC [here](#).

I would therefore ask you to support us in sending a very clear message to your child, please tell them:-

- They **must not use their mobile phones** to contact you during the school day (or for any other reason). Instead, they must go to the Pastoral Hub who will contact you on their behalf.

- If you need to contact them during the school day, please either send an email to enquiries@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk or telephone the school office (01942 728651). We will then get the message to your child as soon as is practicable. If your child does not follow the very clear school procedures on mobile phone use and uses it during the school day, they must expect it to be confiscated for the reasons outlined above.

If their mobile phone is confiscated, they will only get it back at the end of the school day on the Friday of that week, unless you come in to reception to collect it before this. (please note reception closes at 4.00pm).

The vast majority of pupils comply with our school rules by never using their mobile phone during the school day. However, if you could reinforce the messages contained within this letter with your child at home, it will reduce the amount of time spent by staff reminding students about their inappropriate use of mobile phones and subsequent confiscation.

Thank you for your continued support, which is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher