

10 July 2026

Dear families

RE: Mobile Phone Expectations from September 2026

I am writing to remind you of our expectations regarding mobile phones in school and to share both an important national update and a significant change to our practice from September 2026.

At Dixons Brooklands Academy, we have always operated a simple and consistent approach to mobile phones:

"See it, hear it – lose it."

If a mobile phone is seen or heard during the school day, it is confiscated in line with our behaviour policy.

New statutory guidance

On 29 June 2026, the Department for Education published updated statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools. This guidance states that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default and that mobile phones should not be used at any point during the school day, including lessons, transitions between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes. The guidance comes into force from September 2026, you may wish to read the published guidance here: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools-guidance).

This national expectation reflects the approach we have long taken at Dixons Brooklands. Limiting access to mobile phones during the school day supports students to focus on their learning, engage positively with their peers and remain safe from the risks associated with mobile technology and social media.

Why are we making this change?

We recognise that mobile phones play an important role in modern life and provide reassurance for many families on the journey to and from school. However, growing evidence shows that reducing access to mobile phones during the school day can have a significant positive impact on children's wellbeing.

By removing the distraction and pressure that often comes with constant notifications, social media activity and online communication, students are better able to focus on learning, develop stronger face-to-face friendships and engage more positively with the world around them.

We also know that many young people experience anxiety linked to social media, online conflict and the expectation of being constantly available. Creating a mobile phone-free environment gives students valuable time each day to concentrate on learning, build resilience, strengthen friendships and enjoy a break from the pressures of the online world. We firmly believe that this change will support not only academic success but also students' mental health, wellbeing and happiness.

Our new procedure from September 2026

To further support students and ensure mobile phones do not become a distraction during the school day, we will introduce a new system from September.

Students who bring a mobile phone onto the academy site will be required to hand it in at the start of the school day. Phones will be stored securely in a locked unit and returned to students at the end of the school day.

This approach ensures that students can still bring a phone to and from school if required by their families, whilst removing the temptation and distraction of having access to it during the school day.

Failure to hand in a phone

If a student states that they do not have a mobile phone but is subsequently found in possession of one during the school day, the phone will be confiscated immediately.

In these circumstances, the phone will only be returned directly to a parent or carer. Under no circumstances will the student be permitted to collect the phone themselves.

Safeguarding and mobile phones

The purpose of this change is to strengthen our safeguarding arrangements and ensure all students can learn in a safe, calm and focused environment.

Mobile phones present a number of safeguarding risks, including unauthorised photography, filming, access to inappropriate content, cyberbullying and social media-related issues during the school day. As a result, any unauthorised use of a mobile phone on the academy site will be treated as a serious matter.

Furthermore, if a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone when directed to do so by a member of staff, this will be treated as a refusal to follow a reasonable instruction and a safeguarding concern. Additional consequences will be applied in line with the academy's behaviour policy.

Medical exceptions

We recognise that a very small number of students may require access to a mobile device due to significant medical needs. Such exemptions will only be granted in exceptional cases where robust medical evidence confirms that access to a mobile device is necessary to support the student's health or safety, and where this has been agreed by the academy in advance. This will need to be confirmed with the relevant health team, for example the diabetic nursing team.

Working together

We appreciate the support of our parents and carers in implementing this important change. By working together, we can create the calm, focused and distraction-free environment that our students deserve and ensure that all members of our school community remain safe.

We would also like to reassure parents and carers that, should you need to contact your child in an emergency during the school day, you can do so through the academy reception. Our switchboard is staffed and available from 7.30am until 4.00pm, Monday to Friday, and a member of staff will ensure that urgent messages are passed on promptly. Equally, if a student needs to contact home during the school day, appropriate support will always be provided through the academy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Gardner
Principal