

1st July 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is committed to providing calm, focused learning environments where all pupils can succeed. I am writing to confirm our school mobile policy (a copy can be found on our website) which supports the new guidance and ensures our pupils receive the best possible school experience.

In line with Department for Education guidance (January 2026), which states that schools should be mobile phone free by default, all schools within Thinking Schools Academy Trust will operate as mobile phone-free environments during the school day, with no use of mobile phones permitted.

You can read the full guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools>

This applies to the entire school day, including before school, break and lunchtime, clubs, trips and visits unless directed otherwise by a member of staff. It also includes smartwatches, earbuds, and similar devices that allow communication or recording. This expectation applies to all pupils, with any specific arrangements communicated separately by the school where appropriate, i.e. medical need.

For Meon Way Federation this is not a change for our schools as our practices are already in line with this guidance.

Reminder of our policy:

- Pupils do not need a mobile phone in school.
- Medical exceptions apply for pupils who require a phone for a verified medical reason (e.g., diabetes monitoring apps or linked medical devices) may use it as agreed in their individual health plan. This must be authorised by SLT and communicated to relevant staff
- We recognise that some parents and carers wish their Year 5 or 6 child to have a phone for safety on the journey to and from school if they are not collected by a parent/carer. This is fully understood. However, mobile phones must not be used anywhere on the school site
- If a phone is brought into school, it must be switched off and securely stored on arrival and will remain inaccessible until the end of the school day.

Daily routine:

Phone must be switched off and placed in the box held by the teacher.

Expectations and consequences:

Phones and similar devices must be given to the pupils' teacher and secured at all times while on site.

Any device that is seen, heard, or used will be confiscated.



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We invest in wellbeing

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Communication and safeguarding:

If you need to contact your child during the day, please do so via the school office. Messages will be passed promptly.

As a mobile phone-free school, pupils bring mobile phones onto site at their own risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of mobile phones at any time, including while they are held following confiscation.

Any attempt to tamper with or bypass the system will result in more serious consequences.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this approach, which will help ensure calm, safe and focused learning environments across our school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sara Paine

Executive Headteacher

Mobile Phones in School – Parent FAQ

This supports better focus and learning, improved behaviour, and reduced distraction and online risks.

1. Can my child still bring a phone to school?

Yes. We understand that some parents and carers of older pupils may wish their child to have a phone for safety on the journey to and from school.

However, phones must be switched off, secured, and not used at any point on the school site.

2. Why can't students use phones at break or lunchtime?

The guidance is clear that restrictions should apply throughout the entire school day.

This helps encourage social interaction, reduce pastoral issues and online conflict, and ensure consistency and fairness.

3. What happens if a phone is seen or used?

The phone will be confiscated, and sanctions will be applied in line with the school's behaviour policy. Repeat or serious breaches will result in further consequences.

4. What if I need to contact my child during the day?

Please contact the school office, who will ensure messages are passed on quickly and safely.

5. What if my child needs a phone for medical or exceptional reasons?

In a small number of cases, adaptations may be made. Please contact the school directly to discuss this.

6. Will phones ever be used for learning?

No. Students will be provided with everything they need to learn effectively without a phone.

7. What if my child refuses to follow the rules?

Schools will follow their behaviour policy to ensure consistency and fairness. This may include further consequences until expectations are met.

8. How can I support this policy?

You can help by reinforcing that phones must not be used in school, avoiding contacting your child during the school day, and supporting the school's expectations.