

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Mobile Phone Policy Update**

You may be aware of updated government guidance published in January that is very clear and states that *“all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.”* The full guidance is available to read here:

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

As a result, we are writing to inform you of important upcoming changes in our school mobile device policy as we continue our mission to provide the best possible learning experience for our student community.

From September 2026, we will be a phone-free school.

### **Why have we made this decision?**

We believe this change which is supported by research and evidence, will bring significant benefits to our student community, including:

- **Improved concentration and learning:** Students can focus fully on lessons without the distraction of notifications or social media.
- **Better social interaction:** Without phones, students are more likely to engage with one another face-to-face, building stronger friendships and communication skills.
- **Reduced misuse:** Removing visible phones helps prevent issues such as inappropriate messaging, social media conflicts, or the sharing of unsuitable content.
- **Enhanced wellbeing:** Students are less exposed to the pressures of constant online activity, supporting a calmer and healthier academy environment.
- **Greater safeguarding:** The risk of unauthorised photos or recordings being taken in the academy is eliminated.

## **What's next?**

Effective from **Thursday, September 3rd, 2026**, our Academy will adopt a **secure lockable phone pouch system**. This means that students may bring their mobile phones to school, but they must be secured in their assigned personal pouch for the duration of the school day. Students will maintain possession of their phones, but the pouches will remain locked until the end of the day.

We believe phones have their purpose outside of school, but that learning, safeguarding, and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. This system has been successfully implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries, and data from over 900 surveyed schools shows:

- **83%** saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- **86%** saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness
- **65%** saw an improvement in academic performance
- **74%** saw an improvement in student behaviour

These findings reinforce our belief that reducing screen time during the school day can positively impact students' focus, sleep, and classroom behaviour.

Students are required to bring their phone pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times, it will become part of their school uniform requirements and part of the tutor routine at the start of every morning. If a student refuses to follow school policy or is seen to be deliberately damaging their pouch, sanctions will be applied and a replacement pouch will need to be purchased by parents at a charge of **£10**.

Any student failing to comply with the daily practices around placing mobile phones into pouches will be placed into **isolation**. Persistent defiance will lead to increased sanctions ranging from further time in **isolation** up to and including **suspension**. Please refer to the behavior policy and mobile phones policy 2026/27 (the sanctions flow diagram in particular) which is accessible on the school website for further information: [Alleyne's Academy : Policies](#)

To help us support your child and address the challenges of the digital world, we are inviting parents to purchase a pouch for **£10**. This pouch will be the property of the child and they will be responsible for maintaining its functionality and appearance. The cost of **£10** is payable via **ParentPay** with monthly installments as an option. We would like all parents/carers to purchase their pouch during the final weeks of this academic year in readiness for a purposeful start in September. Once payment has been made, we will keep hold of the pouch until the first day back in the new academic year, which is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. They will then be handed out during registration and the daily routine for the students explained in full. If you have any questions about payment, please contact [a.jones@allevnes.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:a.jones@allevnes.staffs.sch.uk)

We will be holding a **parent information session on 9<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00pm** to explain how the system works, share more about the research behind this decision, and offer guidance on how to

support your child's use of technology at home. There is also a presentation on the school website explaining the reasoning behind our decision and our expectations.

Please note that the current process for contacting students remains in effect. In the event you need to contact your child or in case of an emergency, please call **Reception directly at 01785 337400**.

**For students with specific medical needs** – We will require relevant documentation for any students with a medical condition that requires the use of a mobile phone for constant monitoring purposes. They will be expected to purchase a specific medical soft-close pouch which has no signal blocking technology.

Becoming a phone-free school is a significant change, and one which we hope all parents and carers will support us with. Together, we can help our students build healthier habits and create a school environment that prioritises **wellbeing, focus, and meaningful connection**.

Yours sincerely

*Mr T Tweats*

Mr T Tweats

Deputy Headteacher

*Mr C Bailey*

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Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding Lead)