

September 2026

Academy Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Families,

As part of our commitment to providing a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment, we would like to remind families of our expectations regarding mobile phones in school and explain how these align with the government's statutory guidance.

The Department for Education's statutory guidance, which came into force in June 2026 and is expected to be followed by all schools from **September 2026**, states that schools should be **mobile phone-free environments by default**. The guidance advises schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the entire school day, including during lessons, movement between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

The government has introduced this guidance to support pupils' learning, wellbeing and safety. Research and experience from schools show that mobile phones can create unnecessary distractions, interrupt learning, and contribute to social issues such as cyberbullying. The guidance therefore aims to ensure that schools remain calm, focused environments where students can fully engage with their education and positive relationships with their peers.

Our Approach

We recognise that many students carry a mobile phone for use before and after school to support communication with family. To enable this while maintaining a mobile phone-free learning environment, all students have access to a **personalised locker**.

Students are expected to place their mobile phone in their locker **on arrival at school**. Lockers should remain locked throughout the school day, ensuring both the security of personal property and the removal of distractions from lessons and social times. This approach supports students in focusing on their learning while giving families confidence that personal devices are stored safely.

Mobile Phone Expectations and Consequences

To ensure consistency and fairness, the academy will apply the following graduated response where a mobile phone is seen or heard during the school day:

1st occasion

- A correction is issued.
- The student is expected to place the phone in their locker immediately.

2nd occasion

- A correction is issued.
- The student is expected to hand the phone into Reception for secure storage until the end of the school day.

3rd occasion

- A correction is issued.
- The phone will be retained securely, and a parent/carer will be required to come into school to collect it.

4th occasion

- A bespoke support and intervention plan will be implemented to help the student meet academy expectations consistently.

Refusal to Hand Over a Phone

If a student refuses to hand over a mobile phone when requested by a member of staff, they will be placed in **Red Line**, and their family will be contacted. This reflects the importance of following reasonable staff instructions and maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.



Working Together

We greatly appreciate the support of our families in reinforcing these expectations. By working together, we can ensure that students are able to focus fully on their learning, develop positive social interactions, and benefit from a distraction-free school day.

If you have any questions regarding our mobile phone procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Whitworth
Principal
Dixons Newall Green Academy