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Headteacher: Mr M Doody

Friday 30th January

Mobile phones in school

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to update you on our school's approach to mobile phones, following the latest [Department for Education \(DfE\) guidance](#) on creating mobile phone-free school environments.

What does the new guidance say?

The DfE's strengthened guidance (issued on **19th January 2026**) recommends that all schools prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day—including lessons, transitions, breaktimes and lunchtime to support calm, focused learning and promote pupil wellbeing. The guidance also makes clear that schools should have consistent, clearly communicated policies that parents and pupils can easily understand and follow.

At Denton, it has always been the case that children (Year 5 and 6 only) who choose to bring a mobile phone to school do not have access to it during the day. This means we are already a mobile-phone-free environment and fully compliant with the DfE guidance.

Our School's Mobile Phone Policy

To align with national expectations and ensure a safe, calm and disruption-free learning environment, our policy remains as follows:

- Children in **Year 5 and above** may bring a mobile phone to school.
- All phones must be switched off **before** the children come through the gate and kept out of sight (in a pocket or bag) until they reach the school office.
- All phones must be handed in at the school office at the start of the school day, where they will be kept until home time.
- Phones can be collected at the end of the school day from the school office.
- Once collected, phones must remain switched off and out of sight (in a pocket or bag) until the children have left the school gates.

A quick mention about smartwatches

Children are permitted to wear watches in school, including smartwatches, provided they are used purely for telling the time. Under the DfE guidance, devices with phone-like features count as mobile phones, so network functions and camera features must be disabled. If this is not possible, the smartwatch will not be permitted during the day and will need to be handed in with the mobile phone.

Why this matters

Evidence considered by the DfE highlights that mobile phones can be a distraction, can disrupt learning, and may affect pupil wellbeing. Consistent school policies help ensure that all pupils are supported to focus, feel safe, and engage fully in school life. We also regularly speak with colleagues in secondary schools, and many have similar policies, so establishing good routines now helps prepare children for Year 7.

How you can help

We are very fortunate at Denton that our children follow expectations well and only occasionally need a gentle reminder to keep their phone in their bag when walking on or off the site.

At home, please remind your child about our expectations, including ensuring their phone is switched off before they enter the school gates. We've created a simple infographic on the following page for you to use if needed when discussing this with your child.

If children disregard reminders to keep phones out of sight, we will first speak with them and follow this up with a conversation with parents or carers. Persistent issues may lead to us confiscating the device, and in extreme cases, banning the child from bringing a phone to school.

Your partnership is vital in maintaining a calm and focused school environment.

If you have any questions or feel your child may require an exception due to specific needs, please contact the school office—we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Matt Doody
Headteacher

Denton's Mobile Phone Rules

Clear • Simple • Safe

What the DfE Says

Schools should be **mobile-phone-free during the school day** to support calm, focused learning.

Our Rules (Years 5 & 6 Only)

Before School

- Phone **switched off**
- Kept **out of sight** (bag or pocket)
- Walk through the gate → **straight to the office**

During the Day

- All phones **handed in** at the office
- Phones stay there **until home time**

After School

- Collect phone from office
- Phone stays **switched off & out of sight**
- Can be switched on again **once outside the school gates**

Smartwatches

- Smartwatches are allowed **only if used as a watch**.
- Network, messaging & camera functions must be **disabled**.
- If not possible → they must be **handed in** with phones.

How You Can Help

- Remind children to **switch off phones before entering the gate**
- Help reinforce our **“out of sight”** rule
- We'll speak with you if reminders are needed

Thank You

Your support helps keep Denton **calm, safe and focused** for every child.