



KOINONIA
C OF E SCHOOLS FEDERATION
*Excellence through innovation,
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FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

FEDERATION BUSINESS MANAGER

Ms Sue Eden

Thursday 16th July 2026

Re: Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from the Department of Education guidance on schools becoming a mobile-free environment, we have reviewed our current policy and practices on the use of mobile phones and smart devices across the Federation. The review started with a consultation of parents and staff with the aim of strengthening our approach to ensure a ban on mobile phones during the entire school day.

This statutory guidance explicitly states that 'All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.' Therefore, as of 1st September 2026, all students in Years 5-11 will not be allowed to bring **smart mobile phones** or smartwatches onto the school site.

What is our new policy?

From 1st September 2026, pupils in Years 5 – 11 will no longer be allowed to bring **smart phones** or **smart devices** into school unless they are exempt for medical reasons. Pupils will be allowed to bring a dumb/brick phone which will enable them to keep in contact with parents/carers during their journey to and from school to ensure their safety. Pupils in Years 12 and 13 will be allowed to bring smart phones to school but will only be allowed to use them in the Sixth Form Hub, under staff supervision.

Pupils in Years 5-6 who choose to bring dumb/brick phones to school **must have them switched off and place them in the phone boxes provided where they will remain throughout the school day.** At the end of the school day, pupils must only use their phones once they are completely off the school's premises if they wish to contact their parents/carers.

Pupils in Years 7 - 11 who choose to bring dumb/brick phones to school **must have them switched off and kept in their bags throughout the school day.** At the end of the school day, pupils must only use their phones once they are completely off the school's premises if they wish to contact their parents/carers.

Pupils will only be allowed to bring a smart phone to school for genuine medical reasons. Parents will be required to apply for mobile phone medical exemption and must submit medical evidence from a registered doctor or hospital as proof that their child has a medical condition which requires the use of smart phone.

Regular bag searches will be carried out in line with our behaviour policy and if pupils are found with smart phones in school without a medical exemption, they will be confiscated and parents will be required to collect them from reception. If a pupil refuses to hand over their phone to a member of staff, they will receive a sanction in line with our behaviour policy.

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Why are we making this change?

As a school, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact mobile phones can have on pupils' education due to the distraction and disruption they can cause to learning. In addition, the government has also made it clear that they want all schools to be mobile free environments which we are in full support of.

By adopting this approach, it will help to reduce misuse of social media by pupils where they are able to share unkind or inappropriate content during the school day. There has been an ever-growing concern around young people's use of social media and the detrimental impact it has on their wellbeing. Therefore, by limiting their access to smart phones, we seek to reduce the likelihood of negative incidents and interactions occurring to protect our pupils. Our main priority is always the safety and welfare of your child.

Based on the feedback we have had from the parental survey; most parents/carers are in favour of this action. We are now asking for your support to ensure this policy is successful in September. We are fully aware that you may have questions and concerns, therefore, we have added an FAQ section along with the letter to answer some of the questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Harrison & Victoria Wainwright
Federation Executive Co-Headteachers

Jason Benn & Marvin Riley
Secondary Co-Principals

Di Savva-Brown & Sam Reid
Primary Campus Headteachers

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a "dumb" or "brick" phone?

A dumb or brick phone is a basic mobile phone that is primarily designed for:

- Making phone calls.
- Sending and receiving text messages.

These phones do not typically provide:

- Internet access.
- Social media apps.
- App stores.
- Cameras or advanced cameras.
- Games.
- Web browsing.
- Video streaming services.

Examples include simple Nokia-style phones and similar basic devices.

Where can I purchase a dumb or brick phone?

- Currys
- Argos
- Amazon

How much does a dumb or brick phone cost?

- Approximately £22

Can my child bring a smart phone if it remains switched off in their bag?

No.

From September 2026, smart phones **will not be permitted** on the school site regardless of whether they are switched off or not in use.

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Can my child bring a smart watch?

Smart watches with communication, internet, messaging or camera functionality will not be permitted.

Simple fitness trackers without communication functions may be permitted.

How will the school define a smart phone?

A smart phone is any device that can:

- Access the internet
- Use apps
- Access social media
- Take photographs or videos
- Send messages through apps or online services
- Stream content
- Connect to app stores

What if my child needs a phone for travelling to and from school?

Students may bring a brick or dumb phone for travel arrangements and safety purposes.

These phones must be switched off and kept in bags throughout the school day unless permission is given by a member of staff in exceptional circumstances.

How can I contact my child during the school day?

If you need to contact your child urgently during the school day, please contact the school by calling or emailing reception who will ensure messages are passed on promptly.

Christ Church – sao@koinoniafederation.com

St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich – woolwichadmin@koinoniafederation.com

St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula Primary – peninsulaadmin@koinoniafederation.com

St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula Secondary – info.secondary@koinoniafederation.com

Similarly, if your child needs to contact home, arrangements can be made through the school office.

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What if there is an emergency?

The school has established procedures for contacting parents and carers quickly if necessary.

Parents should contact the school office rather than attempting to contact students directly during the school day.

What happens if a student brings a smart phone to school?

If a student brings a smart phone onto the school site:

- The device will be confiscated
- Parents or carers may be required to collect the device
- Repeated breaches will result in further sanctions in line with the school's behaviour policy

Are there any exemptions?

The school recognises that some students may require reasonable adjustments or exemptions due to:

- Medical needs

Requests for exemptions should be discussed with the relevant pastoral leader or member of the senior leadership team.

What support can parents provide at home?

Parents can support the policy by:

- Discussing the reasons for the change with their child
- Helping their child choose an appropriate basic mobile phone if required
- Encouraging healthy technology habits at home
- Supporting the school's expectations regarding phone use

Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the policy or would like to discuss your child's circumstances, please contact your child's Head of Year or the school office.

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