



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL  
AND SIXTH FORM  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official/Sensitive

16 May 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy

I am writing to inform you of an update to our Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy as part of the wider school Behaviour Policy. New central guidance released by the Department of Education (February 2024) centrally stipulates expectations in relation to schools prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. The document is available to view via [Mobile phones in schools - February 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

As we all recognise, mobile phones have become an increasing feature of modern-day living. However, the drive behind this guidance is a growing Governmental concern over the negative impact mobile phone technology is having in schools, creating unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion.

In summary, the guidance allows some flexibility in how it is enforced due to contextual variations existing in schools. I have met with a number of students who have provided me with purposeful feedback. On the back of this, we have now updated our policy which considers context and Government expectations.

As a rural school in which large numbers of students travel to school, possession of a mobile phone is potentially important. Therefore, students will likely journey to school in possession of a mobile device. However, upon arrival in school it is imperative that devices (including headphones/earbuds) are **not seen or heard** at any time within the building. Phones must be stored away in bags or in concealed pockets.

Systems have been modified in school to ensure this is consistently adhered to by all students. I have put the Draft Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Policy onto the website. [Draft-Mobile-Phones-and-Electronic-Devices-Policy-2024.pdf \(hedingham.essex.sch.uk\)](https://hedingham.essex.sch.uk)

Confiscations will be used when students do not follow these expectations and the sanctions increase in severity for repeat offenders.

Your support as parents is vital in the process. In particular:

1. If your child does not need to bring a mobile phone to school, please insist that they leave it at home.
2. Please ensure that you refrain from directly contacting your child using their personal device during the school day. All enquiries should go through Main Reception who will relay any messages.

All students are to be informed of these changes in a sequence of assemblies in the final week of half-term.

As you may well imagine, this is an agenda made more complex due to young people's attachment to their devices. Therefore, your support with managing this change is most appreciated.

Your sincerely

Mr P Finch  
Deputy Headteacher

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