

27th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Updated National guidance on mobile phones in schools - January 2026**

The Department for Education has recently strengthened its guidance on prohibiting mobile phones in schools. Acle Academy has held a strong stance on mobile phone use in school for many years but there have been exceptions where we have previously permitted supervised use of mobile technology in a controlled learning environment. As a result of this guidance, we will be updating our practices to ensure we are fully compliant.

Teachers will not allow students to use their own devices for quiz-based activities such as blook-it or for research purposes in lesson or as a calculator. There is no educational reason why a child may need to bring a phone to school.

Our decision to maintain a mobile-free school environment is rooted in what we know to be best for our students. Mobile phones can be a significant distraction from learning, can negatively affect concentration and social interaction, and can increase the risk of issues such as online bullying and anxiety. By removing these distractions, we are able to foster a calmer, more focused environment where students can engage fully in their education and in positive face-to-face relationships with one another.

We recognise that some parents may have concerns about communication during the school day. Please be assured that if a student needs to contact home, or if you need to reach your child in an emergency, this can always be done via the school office. This ensures that communication is managed safely and appropriately without disrupting learning. **We ask parents and carers to please ensure that you do not text or call your child on their mobile phone during the school day.**

Students should not access their mobile phones whilst on school site, irrespective of the time of the day. We appreciate that some students hold their bus pass for the 905 bus electronically and this can be accessed immediately prior to departure. There are no other circumstances in which students will be allowed to access their phones. Any mobile phone seen or heard will continue to be confiscated and will need to be collected by a designated adult.

We ask for your continued support in reinforcing this policy with your child.

Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting us in creating a safe, focused and positive learning environment for all students.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Helen Watts  
Executive Principal

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