

21 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Policy Change - Mobile Phones

We write to inform you of important changes to our School Behaviour Policy, specifically regarding the use of mobile phones by students.

Effective from **Monday 3 November 2025**, students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones while on school premises until after 3.20pm. **This restriction includes the time before the start of the school day.** All phones must be **powered off** and not seen whilst on the school site.

Any student not meeting these expectations will have their device immediately confiscated. **Please note that confiscated phones will no longer be returned to the student directly.** Instead, confiscated mobile phones must be collected by a parent or carer from the School Reception between 8.00am and 5.00pm on any school day.

This change to the confiscation rule is intended to provide a greater deterrent to the minority of students who currently do not comply with our expectations, resulting in disruption to the school day, and should not impact upon anyone who is currently meeting our expectations.

Department for Education (DfE) guidance directs schools to prohibit mobile phone use and suggests four possible approaches:

1. No mobile phones allowed on the school premises.
2. Mobile phones handed to staff on arrival.
3. Mobile phones kept in a secure location.
4. Never used, seen, or heard.

We have chosen to implement the "Never Used, Seen, or Heard" policy because we believe it is the most appropriate balance for our students, we have taken the decision for the following key reasons:

- **Student Safety and Travel:** Many of our students travel long distances to school or participate in co-curricular activities that finish late. Mobile phones play an important role in student safety while commuting to and from school, particularly after hours.
- **Self-Regulation and Responsibility:** Mobile phones will be an ongoing part of our students' lives. Removing them completely does not educate students on how to use them appropriately or take responsibility for their own behaviour. This policy encourages students to practise the self-regulation skills essential for adult life.

We are proud that the majority of our students respect our school rules and contribute positively to the school community. These minor changes are designed to support a continued positive learning environment for everyone.

Please note that we will continue to make the following exceptions:

- **Medical Requirements:** Exceptions will be made for the small number of students who require their mobile phone for documented medical reasons.
- **VI Form Students:** VI Form students will continue to be allowed to use their mobile phones only whilst they are in the dedicated VI Form common areas.

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Should the need arise, students may request staff permission to use their mobile phone for the purpose of contacting home. Authorised use is strictly limited to the designated areas: the foyer of the Bethnal Green Entrance and the School Reception.

We ask that parents and carers do not contact their child during the school day, as this can cause disruption to their learning. In the event of an urgent need to contact your child during the school day, please telephone the School Reception and a message will be passed to them.

Full details of our expectations can be found in the updated school Behaviour Policy (from 3 November).

Thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring a focused and productive school day for all our students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Mr B Hughes
Deputy Headteacher