



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

10 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy Changes from September 2026

I am writing to share an important update about our approach to mobile phones, smart watches and similar internet-enabled devices at The Mountbatten School.

Like many schools locally and nationally, we have been reviewing the role that smart devices play in our students' lives. Over recent years, research and experience have shown that these devices can be a significant distraction in the classroom and beyond, can impact students' wellbeing, hinder social interaction, affect their focus on learning and pose safeguarding risks. Informed by this evidence, and after extensive discussion with staff and trustees, we have made the decision to introduce **a ban on smart phones, smart watches and similar devices** on our school site, starting from **September 2026**.

Our current policy of 'no see, no hear' is one adopted by the vast majority of schools. However, as indicated in the joint letter sent today across our partnership schools, we are committed to pursuing an even more effective approach.

What this means for Mountbatten students:

- From **September 2026**, students **must not bring smart phones, smart watches or similar internet-enabled devices** into school at any time;
- Devices that resemble smart phones, even if "locked down," will also be treated as prohibited;
- Students requiring a device for **medical reasons** (for example, diabetes monitoring) will be able to do so via a medically agreed plan with school;
- Devices that have **basic voice call or text functionality only** (so-called 'brick phones' without internet, camera or app access) may be brought in for safety reasons, but must be stored **in bags (not blazers or pockets)** and must not be seen, heard, switched on or used on the school premises at any time for any reason;
- The school will not take responsibility for looking after any device including 'brick phones' during PE lessons.

Rationale for the ban

Our aim is to create an environment where all students can focus fully on their education and on meaningful interaction with peers and teachers, without the distraction that smart devices can bring. We know that:

- smart phones are often linked with increased distraction and reduced attention in lessons;
- social media and messaging apps can contribute to anxiety, exclusion and conflict;
- taking photographs or videos without consent can create additional safeguarding challenges;
- access to the internet/social media can and does expose children to inappropriate content (often unfiltered and graphic).

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By removing these devices entirely from the school setting, we believe we are better safeguarding students' learning, wellbeing and sense of community.

'Brick' phones that will be permitted

From September 2026, we will only permit the following mobile devices:

- Nokia 105
- Oakcastle F100
- The Phone+

These phones do not have social media apps, web access or cameras. We will review this list every year and update as necessary. Whilst other 'brick' phones are available, we are restricting the number permitted to these three as they do not support apps or have a camera function and a limited number of options make it easy for staff to identify and distinguish between smart phones and brick phones.

Supporting the transition

Our website contains further information about the rationale for this decision, which I urge you to review when considering your own response to the growing body of evidence that confirms that smart phones harm children. In addition, over the coming months we will be providing:

- information sessions for parents and carers about online safety, healthy technology habits and alternatives to smart devices;
- guidance for students on managing communication and independence without a smart phone;
- reminders about how to contact the school in urgent circumstances (for example via Reception).

Communicating with home

If you need to get an urgent message to your child during the school day, please contact the school reception as usual and we will ensure your child receives it. Students will continue to be able to call home from a school telephone (*not* from their own device) if needed, with the permission of a member of staff. You will need to make sure that we have up to date contact details in case your child does not know your telephone number.

Behaviour Policy

Our behaviour policy will be updated to reflect this change. However, in summary, from next September, bringing smart phones or similar items into school will be considered a very serious disciplinary breach and sanctioned accordingly.

Thank you for your support

We know that many families already share our desire to help young people focus on learning and healthy relationships without being constantly connected to screens. We ask for your support in preparing students for this change over the rest of the academic year, including discussing alternatives and setting expectations around device use outside of school.

This new policy is designed to benefit every student's experience at The Mountbatten School, and we believe it will make a positive difference to our community.

Yours sincerely



Mr C J Cox
Headteacher