

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

Mobile Phone Information

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would like to remind all families of our expectations regarding mobile phones on the school site.

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently strengthened its guidance on mobile phones in schools. The statutory guidance states that schools should be **"Mobile phone-free environments by default"** and that schools should implement policies that **prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes and the time between lessons.**

The DfE's rationale is clear: mobile phones can create distraction, increase opportunities for cyberbullying, impact pupils' wellbeing and reduce valuable face-to-face social interaction. Schools are expected to create calm, safe environments where pupils can focus on learning and personal development

Having reviewed the latest guidance and considered the needs of our school community, we do not currently believe it is necessary to introduce measures such as:

- Mobile phone pouches or locked phone pouches
- Requiring students to carry only non-smart phones
- Daily collection of all phones from all students.

However, we are absolutely clear about our expectations. **Students may bring a mobile phone to school, but it must be:**

- switched off before entering the school site
- kept out of sight at all times
- stored in their bag throughout the school day
- not carried in pockets or on their person
- used only in the designated bus bay area where required for transport ticketing purposes.

At all other times, phones must remain switched off and in bags. To ensure that our policy is followed consistently, the school will carry out **random checks** throughout the year. If a student is found:

- using a mobile phone on site, or
- carrying a phone on their person rather than in their bag

the phone will be **confiscated** and the student will receive a **one-hour after school detention**.

Please ensure your child knows they should contact Reception if they need to contact home, and not use their mobile, and please do not text or message your child on their mobile during the school day. Contact the office if you need to get an urgent message to them.

Thank you for your ongoing support with keeping our school site completely phone free.

Yours sincerely

Mr Quigley
Assistant Head