



A community of transformation founded on love, hope & trust

St Mark's Church of England Academy

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Headteacher: Aimee Gallagher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Updated Mobile Phone Policy

At St Mark's Academy, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for all students. Following a review of our current arrangements and in line with **updated guidance**, we are introducing changes to our Mobile Phone Policy, which will take effect from **1st September 2026**.

These changes have been made to support students' learning, wellbeing, and positive behaviour, while reducing distractions during the school day.

New Guidance

From **1st September 2026**, the following expectations will apply in **all schools** in England:

- **All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.**
- **The Department for Education (DfE) expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime (including limitation of Sixth Form phone use).**
- **As part of this policy, schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones.**
- **All staff should consistently enforce the school's policy on the use of mobile phones.**

Summary of the Changes

The key changes to our previous policy include:

Previous Approach

Students are able to keep their mobile phones with them, on the condition they are never used, seen or heard.

New Approach

All KS3 and KS4 students' mobile phones will be collected in at the start of the day and stored securely for the entire school day.

Students' phones will be returned to them during coaching time (at the end of the school day).

Students with detentions or interventions will have their phone returned to them at the end of the detention or intervention.



Previous Approach

Sixth Form students are permitted to use their phones in designated areas.

Designated members of staff authorised by the Headteacher have the power to search pupils for mobile phones.

These changes are intended to:

- Improve students' concentration and engagement in lessons.
- Promote positive social interaction during the school day.
- Reduce impact of mobile phone addiction which affects many young people.
- Reduce incidents involving inappropriate phone use, including photography, social media, and messaging.
- Support student physical and mental wellbeing and online safety.

Sanctions for Breaches of the Policy

If a student brings their mobile phone onto the school site, they, and their families, are **agreeing** to our Mobile Phone Policy.

If a student does not follow the Mobile Phone Policy, **serious sanctions** will be issued. Details of these will be provided in the full policy which will be published on the school website in September 2026.

Any severe misuse involving bullying, inappropriate images, recording of others, or other serious incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and Online Safety Policies and may be referred to external agencies where appropriate.

Working Together

We ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child before they come to school each day. By working together, we can help ensure that our school remains a calm, safe and productive environment where all students can be transformed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Aimee Gallagher
Headteacher

New Approach

Sixth Form students are permitted to use their phones for school-based activities in designated areas.

Students may be subject to searches to with metal wands or metal detectors to ensure compliance with the policy.