



HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

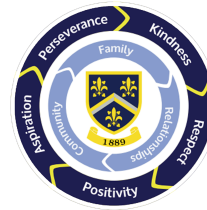
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Headteacher: Mr J. E. Crowther



REF: 301

15 June 2026

Re: Mobile Phone Policy Review

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, focused, and productive learning environment for all our students, I am writing to inform you that we are currently in the process of reviewing our school's mobile phone policy.

This review is being driven by two very important national developments that will affect all schools this year:

1. New DfE Guidance on Mobile Phones in Schools (February 2026)

The Department for Education (DfE) published updated [guidance](#) in February 2026, which strongly reinforces the government's position on removing mobile phones from the school day.* The guidance highlights the clear link between mobile phone use in schools and challenges relating to distraction, cyberbullying, and a decline in student mental health.

While our current policy is robust and the incidents of students found to be contravening the rules remain low, the DfE guidance indicates that if mobile phones are to be brought into school, the expectation has shifted to secure hands-off storage in purpose built lockers or pouches, thereby eliminating any temptation to covertly try and use devices during the school day. This new stance absolutely supports our next steps in school as while mobile phone use in lessons is not an issue for us, the confiscations that have been necessary have predominantly occurred in non-structured time.

**Reasonable adjustments will be in place for exceptional circumstances e.g. medical needs.*

2. Statutory RSE Curriculum Requirements (September 2026)

From this September, the updated statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum requirements will come into effect. A significant portion of this curriculum focuses on navigating the digital world safely. It places a strong emphasis on educating young people about online safety, the impact of social media, harmful online content, privacy, and digital well-being.

While our new RSE curriculum will equip students with the knowledge and critical-thinking skills they need to navigate the online world safely, our mobile phone policy must provide a physical environment that supports this



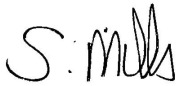
learning. Creating a completely mobile phone-free school day allows students a vital break from digital pressures and fosters a safer community culture.

We value your partnership and want to ensure that our community is fully informed and involved as we shape these updates. With that in mind, we invite you to complete and submit a short questionnaire via this [Google Form](#). This survey will close on **Friday 19.06.26**. We will also be consulting with staff and gaining student voice with regard to this matter. We will then finalise our updated policy and curriculum plans to share with you before the end of the summer term.

Our ultimate goal is to support your child's academic success, mental health, and physical well-being. We want to thank you in advance for your continued support as we implement these positive changes for the upcoming academic year.

Finally, on a separate note, following the completion of our parents' evenings in the past week, we are now in a position where we would invite comments from parents/carers about how we could improve the system in future years including next year. Please only complete this [Google Form](#) once if you have multiple students in the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S: Mills'.

Mrs Sally Mills
Assistant Headteacher and Behaviour Lead