



29th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is committed to providing calm, focused learning environments where all students can succeed. I am writing to inform you of some changes we will be making at **Kings Ash Academy** to support the latest guidance and ensure our students receive the best possible school experience.

In line with Department for Education guidance (January 2026), which states that schools should be mobile phone-free by default, all schools within Thinking Schools Academy Trust will operate as mobile phone-free environments during the school day, with no use of mobile phones permitted from September 2026.

You can read the full guidance here:

[Mobile phones in schools guidance](#)

This applies to the entire school day, including before school, break and lunchtime, movement between lessons, clubs, trips and visits, unless directed otherwise by a member of staff. It also includes smartwatches, earbuds and similar devices that allow communication or recording.

What this means in practice

Students do not need a mobile phone in school.

We recognise that some parents and carers wish their child to have a phone for safety on the journey to and from school. This is fully understood. However, **mobile phones must not be seen, heard, or used anywhere on the school site at any time — including before school and after school while students are still on site.**

Kings Ash Academy arrangements

At Kings Ash Academy, secure lockboxes are already in place in each classroom.

Daily routine:

- If a student brings a phone to school, it must be **switched off before entering the school site.**
- On arrival to their classroom, the phone must be **placed immediately into the classroom lockbox.**
- Phones will remain secured in the lockbox for the duration of the school day.
- Phones will be returned to students at the end of the school day.

Additional expectations:

- Phones **must not be out or visible at any point on the school site**, including when arriving in the morning or leaving at the end of the day.
- Students who choose to bring a phone are expected to **move directly on and off site without using it.**

Expectations and consequences

Phones and similar devices must be secured at all times while on site.

Any device that is **seen, heard, or used** will be confiscated. Confiscation will follow an escalating approach, where repeated breaches result in longer periods before the device is returned, in line with the school's behaviour policy.

As a mobile phone-free school, students bring mobile phones onto site at their own risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of mobile phones at any time, including while they are held following confiscation.

Any attempt to tamper with or bypass the system will result in more serious consequences.

Communication and safeguarding

If you need to contact your child during the day, please do so via the school office. Messages will be passed on promptly.

Students will have access to all necessary resources and support; mobile phones are not required for learning.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this approach, which will help ensure calm, safe and focused learning environments across Kings Ash Academy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Rob Fitzsimmons

Headteacher

Mobile Phones in School – Parent FAQ

1. Why are TSAT schools introducing this policy?

The Department for Education states that schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default.

This supports better focus and learning, improved behaviour, and reduced distraction and online risks.

You can read the full guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools>

2. Can my child still bring a phone to school?

Yes. We understand that some parents and carers wish their child to have a phone for safety on the journey to and from school.

However, phones must be switched off, secured and not used at any point on the school site. They must not be seen or heard at any time.

- 3.** Why can't students use phones at break or lunchtime?

The guidance is clear that restrictions should apply throughout the entire school day.

This helps encourage social interaction, reduce pastoral issues and online conflict, and ensure consistency and fairness.

- 4.** How will the school manage phones during the day?

Each school will use its own system, such as pouches, lockers or secure storage.

Please refer to your school's letter for details of the system used and the daily routine.

- 5.** What happens if a phone is seen or used?

The phone will be confiscated and sanctions will be applied in line with the school's behaviour policy. Repeat or serious breaches will result in further consequences.

- 6.** What if I need to contact my child during the day?

Please contact the school office, who will ensure messages are passed on quickly and safely.

Students can also request to contact home via staff if needed.

- 7.** What if my child needs a phone for medical or exceptional reasons?

In a small number of cases, adaptations may be made. Please contact the school directly to discuss this.

- 8.** Will phones ever be used for learning?

No. Students will be provided with everything they need to learn effectively without a phone.

- 9.** What if my child refuses to follow the rules?

Schools will follow their behaviour policy to ensure consistency and fairness. This may include further sanctions until expectations are met.

10. How can I support this policy?

You can help by reinforcing that phones must not be used in school, avoiding contacting your child during the school day, and supporting the school's expectations.