



8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

### **Re: Use of Mobile Phones in Schools**

In England, schools must follow the Department for Education (DfE) guidance to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including during breaks and lunchtimes. We strongly agree that schools have a duty of care to create an environment that is calm and safe for students to learn and at Ashmole Academy we are pleased that we already have an established practice of being a phone-free school.

Not only does the implementation of this policy help reduce the impact of a student becoming distracted in lessons but it also makes a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with having what are often expensive devices. We also recognise the benefit that reducing screen time has on young people's mental health and know that by not allowing mobile phones at Ashmole Academy, students and young people can spend more time socialising face to face and staying active, which has a positive impact on their welfare. We are also aware of the many reported incidents of young people who are in possession of a mobile phone being targeted victims of crime on their way to and from school; another reason why we feel strongly that students should not be in possession of a phone.

In exceptional circumstances mobile phones are permitted for medical reasons such as tracking diabetes and blood sugars. Furthermore, permission may also be granted for those students who travel a longer distance from the school independently. In such instances, the student must hand in a non-smart mobile phone at reception and then collect it at the end of the day. In these highly exceptional circumstances, prior permission must be given by the school.

We regularly educate students on the reasons why we have always taken this standpoint and remind students of our school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones. We also remind students that if they are found with a mobile phone, they will serve a 45-minute Leadership Detention and will have the phone confiscated for a period of one week.

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Regular random bag searches will be conducted across all year groups to check for mobile phones and banned items by the pastoral teams to support us in maintaining our high standards for behaviour. Parents/carers will need to arrange a time to collect their child's mobile phone if confiscated.

We fully recognise the important role you have as parents/carers in supporting our school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones at Ashmole Academy and thank you for your continued support in reinforcing this policy. We also encourage you to discuss some of the potential risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment with your child.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Clarke', written in a cursive style.

Miss V Clarke

**Assistant Head Teacher**