



Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would like to inform you of an important change to our mobile phone policy that will take effect from September.

Over recent years, there has been growing national recognition of the impact that smartphones and other personal electronic devices can have on young people's learning, wellbeing and social development. Earlier this year, the Government strengthened its expectations that schools should have clear and robust policies to ensure that mobile phones are not used during the school day. This reflects an increasing body of evidence that reducing access to mobile phones in schools improves concentration, behaviour, attendance, face-to-face communication and overall pupil wellbeing.

At New Mills School, our priority has always been to provide the very best learning environment for every student. After careful consideration, we have therefore taken the decision to become a completely phone-free school.

From September

From the first day of the new academic year, students may still bring a mobile phone to school if families feel it is necessary for travel to and from school. However, it must remain switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

To support this change, we are also strengthening our sanctions. From September, any mobile phone or other unauthorised electronic device that is seen, heard or used during the school day will be confiscated immediately. Unlike our current system, we will no longer operate a "three strikes" approach. On every occasion that a device is confiscated, it must be collected by a parent or carer.

We believe this clear and consistent approach will help establish the high expectations that our students deserve and will prepare everyone for the next stage of our policy.

Introducing Mobile Phone Pouches

From the middle of the first half-term, we will begin introducing secure mobile phone pouches for all students.

Each student will be provided with one pouch free of charge. Students will be expected to look after their pouch carefully and further guidance on how to best do this will be provided in the new academic year. Should a pouch become lost or damaged, replacement pouches will need to be purchased by families.

Details of replacement costs, purchasing arrangements and frequently asked questions will be shared early in the new academic year, ahead of the rollout.

We appreciate that a small number of students require access to medical technology during the school day. Families of students with an agreed medical dispensation will be contacted individually to discuss the arrangements for our medical pouches, ensuring that students can continue to access essential medical equipment safely while maintaining the integrity of the school's phone-free approach.

Looking Ahead

We recognise that this represents a change for our school community, but it is one that we believe will have a positive impact on students' learning, behaviour, relationships and wellbeing. Schools across the country that have adopted completely phone-free environments report calmer classrooms, improved focus, greater social interaction and fewer distractions throughout the school day.

During the first half-term we will work closely with students to ensure they understand the new expectations and feel confident using the pouch system before it becomes fully embedded.

Further information, including the rollout schedule, replacement pouch costs, frequently asked questions and guidance for families, will be shared during the new academic year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can create an environment where every student is able to focus fully on learning, build positive relationships and make the very most of every opportunity available to them.

PE Kits

As part of our PE uniform, students are expected to wear plain black shorts. Please can I direct parents to the link below where appropriate shorts can be purchased prior to the new year.

[Black P.E Shorts | Headmasters Schoolwear](#)

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Hill', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Hill

Assistant Headteacher.