

Kindness  
Determination  
Self-belief

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## MULLION SCHOOL



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16 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support of our school's routines and values — particularly around mobile phone use. We know that the vast majority of families are already aligned with our expectations and share our commitment to creating a calm, focused and safe learning environment for all pupils.

Since 2016, our policy has allowed pupils of all ages to bring a phone to school, with the expectation that it remains switched off and out of sight throughout the school day. This approach has served us well, but recent national guidance and growing evidence of the impact of mobile technology on young people have prompted us to review our position.

In February 2024, the Department for Education published guidance requiring schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones during the school day. Many schools are now going further by introducing smart phone bans, and we have been working alongside colleagues across Truro and Penwith Academy Trust to evaluate our own approach.

We are aware that more parents and carers are actively choosing to keep their children 'smart phone free', and national efforts to reduce children's exposure to harmful content online continue. Some of the wider research and evidence we have considered includes:

- **Online safety** – nationally, around one in five children have experienced online bullying.
- **Social connection** – phones can distract children from engaging fully with peers.
- **Sleep disruption** – late-night phone use affects concentration and wellbeing in school.
- **Fragmented attention** – even unused phones can disrupt focus and academic performance.
- **Addictive design** – the structure of phone-based notifications and feedback loops is especially powerful for developing teenage brains.

We also know — from our own experiences — that misuse does occur, sometimes during lessons, and often for reasons unrelated to learning. These trends, coupled with feedback from students and families, make clear that it is time to make further changes.

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## What is changing from September 2025:

- We would prefer that pupils do not bring internet-enabled ('smart') mobile phones to school at all.
- If a phone is brought in, it must be switched off and unseen at all times — including after school activities.
- Pupils needing to leave a lesson (e.g. for the toilet) must hand their phone to their teacher before leaving.
- Pupils seen using or accessing their phone during the day will have it confiscated and a behaviour sanction will be issued. Repeat incidents may lead to a ban on bringing a phone to school.
- Smart watches are not permitted on site.
- For emergencies, contact should always be made via the school office. Pupils needing to phone home must do so via staff permission.

We genuinely believe these changes will help reduce distractions and anxiety, strengthen face-to-face relationships, and protect our students from the pressures of constant connectivity. These updates will be incorporated into our Behaviour Policy and published ahead of the new academic year.

We appreciate that change takes adjustment — and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership. As always, our focus remains on delivering an education that's safe, focused, and ambitious for every pupil. If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Dunleavy  
Headteacher