

FAO Parents and Carers  
Initio Learning Trust Schools

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Smartphone Free Consultation Report: Key Findings and Next Steps**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent consultation regarding the use of smartphones and mobile devices during the school day. We received a high volume of responses, providing valuable data to help shape a new policy that supports a productive and safe learning environment.

This letter summarises the key findings from the parent survey:

- **Access During the School Day:** There is overwhelming opposition to smartphone access during school hours from parents of students in Year 5 through Year 11. For example, 96.7% of Year 5 parents and 73.8% of Year 11 parents oppose access. Parents of Sixth Form students (Years 12 & 13) were the only group where the majority (50.8%) supported allowing phone access during the school day
- **Concerns:** Concerns regarding smartphone and social media use are significant across year groups, peaking at 68.3% among Year 9 parents
- **Travel Importance:** While access during the school day is largely opposed, the necessity of a smartphone for the travel to school increases with age, with over 75% of parents from Year 9 upwards rating it as important or very important
- **Policy Preferences:** Across all year groups below Sixth Form, the most popular proposed policies are highly restrictive, indicating a desire for firm boundaries. These preferences include:
  - Mandatory deposit of all phones in a secure locker
  - A Total Ban on all phones
  - Use of Magnetic Lockable Pouches upon arrival.

Staff members also strongly support restrictions, with 93.8% believing students should not have access to mobile phones during the school day, and the most favoured approach among staff being the use of magnetic lockable pouches.



### Proposed Next Steps

The consultation findings will now be used to inform the final policy decision agreed with our schools. The next crucial steps in this process are:

- Share feedback with Senior Leaders (SLT)
- Decide on proposed next steps with Headteachers

We will communicate the agreed-upon policy and its implementation date once these steps have been completed.

Thank you once again for your essential contribution to this important discussion.

Kind regards

Liz West  
CEO