

Friday 17 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Moving towards a smartphone-free environment from September 2026

At Queen Elizabeth's School, as part of the Initio Learning Trust, we are committed to providing the very best environment for our students to learn, develop, and flourish. Our mission is to ensure that our school remains a place where young people can focus on their education, build authentic face-to-face relationships, and engage fully in school life, free from the distractions that can hinder deep concentration.

Following a period of consultation with staff and parents, and reflecting our Trust-wide commitment to the values of Ambition, Collaboration, and Respect, I am writing to inform you that from September 2026, Queen Elizabeth's School will operate as a smartphone-free environment for all students in years 9-11 inclusive. Smartphones and related devices will no longer be permitted on the school site in the possession of students for these year groups.

The rationale behind this change

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided guidance on mobile phones in schools which became statutory on 29th June 2026. It provides statutory guidance to individual schools and trusts on how to implement a procedure that prohibits the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. The guidance can be found [here](#).

In recent years, we have observed the significant impact that smartphones can have on young people's wellbeing, focus, and social development. While technology is undeniably integral to modern life, there is clear consensus among educators and families that creating a device-free space during the school day allows students to better reconnect with their learning and each other.

What does this mean for students?

We recognise that many students require a mobile device for travel to and from school. Therefore, students may continue to carry a device, provided it is one of the following approved **non-smartphone** models:

- Nokia 105 4G (no camera version)
- AGM M9 4G
- Easyfone Prime A6 4G



- Maxcom MM135LITE
- Oakcastle F101

To ensure this policy is applied consistently across our school day, these handsets must:

- Be powered off before entering the school premises.
- Remain securely in the student's bag from arrival until departure.
- Only be used once the student has exited the school grounds at the end of the day.

We have confirmed with local transport operators that physical bus passes are a viable and reliable alternative to app-based ticketing.

If students choose to bring a smartphone to school, they should hand it in to Reflection between 08:30am and 08:40am in the morning. They will then be able to collect their device at the end of the school day. If a non-approved phone is seen during the school day (i.e. a smartphone) then this will be confiscated and parents/carers asked to collect it. The phone will not be handed back to the student at the end of the day.

Communication, support, and medical needs

We are mindful that families need reliable channels of communication. You may continue to contact your child via the school reception in the usual way. Similarly, if a student needs to reach home, they will be supported by our staff to do so via reception.

For students who require a smart device for documented medical monitoring purposes, we will ensure appropriate exemptions remain in place. If you believe your child qualifies for this exemption, please contact their Head of Year/ Headteacher as appropriate.

Implementation and enforcement

To ensure fairness and effectiveness, this policy will be implemented consistently across all lower-school year groups. Should a student be found in possession of a prohibited smartphone on site, the device will be confiscated, and a parent or carer will be asked to collect it from the school. Further details on our procedures will be included in our behaviour policy and behaviour guidance documents on the school website by 01 September 2026, when these changes will take effect.

Sixth Form

With the new government regulations for under-16s, we are also adjusting our procedures for Sixth Form students. If a Sixth Form student is using their phone around the site, they will either have this confiscated or they will be walked to the Sixth Form study area or the Sixth Form Cafe, where Upper School students will still be allowed to use their mobile devices. We feel this change is necessary to maintain expectations in the Lower School, whilst recognising the maturity and independence of our Sixth Form students.

Working together

We understand that this change requires adjustment for families. However, we are confident that this decision will create a calmer, more focused, and ultimately more rewarding experience for our students. The success of this policy relies on a strong partnership between home and school, and I am grateful for your continued support as we maintain the high standards that define our community.

Yours sincerely



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