

The Blue Coat School Liverpool

Non sibi sed omnibus

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26th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about recent national guidance from the Department for Education regarding mobile phone use in schools and to reassure you that our school is ready to ensure we are fully aligned with this position.

The Secretary of State for Education has made clear that all schools should be phone-free environments throughout the entire school day. This includes lessons, transitions between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. The intention is to remove any ambiguity and ensure consistency nationally, supporting pupils' learning, behaviour, safeguarding and wellbeing.

We would like to reassure you that this is not a change in direction for our school. We already do not permit mobile phone use during lessons or around the school site. However, there is one important clarification that we wish to make following the updated guidance:

Pupils will no longer be able to use mobile phones for educational research or learning activities. This means that phones will not be used as calculators, for internet searches, or for any form of classroom research. Where technology is required, school devices and resources will always be provided.

Our expectations are therefore clear:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight during the school day.
- Phones will not be used in lessons, including for research or educational purposes.
- Phones will not be used during breaktimes or lunchtime.
- Any exceptions will only apply for specific medical or safeguarding reasons and must be authorised by the school.

The strengthened national guidance makes it explicit that:

- Mobile phones have no place in routine classroom learning.
- Policies must be applied consistently and confidently.
- Parents are expected to support schools in maintaining these boundaries.

Ofsted will now consider not only whether schools have a mobile phone policy, but how effectively it is applied when judging behaviour. This reinforces the importance of clarity, consistency and strong partnership between school and home.



The government's message is simple: clear boundaries help children to focus, feel safe, and succeed. Mobile phones, while valuable in many contexts, are not needed in school and can distract from learning, social development and wellbeing.

We are grateful for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations with your children. When schools and families work together, pupils benefit from clear, consistent messages about responsibility and behaviour.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a calm, focused and safe learning environment for all students.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Sexton
Headteacher

