



17 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: National Mobile Phone Policy Change**

Thank you very much for sharing your views on the national mobile phone policy change through the parent questionnaire that was sent out before Easter.

Along with the views shared by the students through their questionnaire, we have used your responses to help shape the introduction of the mobile phone ban at Soham Village College.

As you are aware, the Secretary for Education has declared that all schools should become mobile phone free environments. The rationale given for this is so that we:

- Support the mental health and wellbeing of our students by guaranteeing them more than six phone-free hours each day
- Provide a high-quality learning environment in which disruption and distraction due to devices is eliminated
- Give students the freedom to socialise without the distractions of devices during the school day

At Soham Village College, this will be between 8:30am and 3pm. This will come into action from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 (the final half term).

Students will not be allowed to have their phone on their person during this time. Any phone that is seen during this time will be confiscated and the student will have to collect it at the end of the day from Reception. They will also receive a B11 detention and you will be informed by email about the incident. During this initial phase, we will not be keeping phones overnight with no notice. Instead, we will work with parents on increased sanctions if there are repeated incidents.

The only exception to the mobile phone rule is for students who need their phone to actively monitor a diagnosed medical condition, such as diabetes.

Students are not required to bring a phone to school, and our preference is that they do not bring one. We recognise that, due to the semi-rural nature of our school, some parents and carers may wish their child to carry a mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school. We recommend that the phone is inexpensive and fulfils only your basic requirements.

Any students who choose to bring a mobile phone to school will be able to hire a locker to store it in during the school day. Details about how to hire lockers will be released later this half term.

We appreciate that some families will find this adjustment more challenging than others, and we will review the effectiveness of the changes as the half term progresses.



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Please find attached FAQs that we have answered from comments and queries raised through the questionnaire. Many thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Slingsby  
Deputy Headteacher  
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***1. Can my child bring a phone to school?***

Students are not required to bring a phone to school and our preference is that they do not bring one. We recognise that, due to the semi-rural nature of our school, some parents and carers may wish their child to have a mobile phone for safety reasons when travelling to and from school. We recommend that the phone is inexpensive and fulfils only your basic requirements.

***2. What if I need to contact my child during the day or they need to contact me?***

The current arrangements remain unchanged. In an emergency, if a student needs to contact a parent or carer, or a parent/carer needs to contact a student, this can be done at any time through Student Services. In non-emergency situations (money adding to account, forgotten equipment) this can be done during designated breaks and using the landline in student services.

***3. What if my child has a medical condition?***

The only exceptions to the mobile phone rule are for students who need their phone to actively monitor a diagnosed medical condition, such as diabetes.

***4. What if my child forgets?***

There will be reminders around school and students will become familiar very quickly with the new routine. There are no exceptions for students found in possession of a phone, it will be confiscated.

***5. What if my child arrives at school late and wants to put their phone in their locker?***

After signing in, they may go straight to their locker to store their phone before going to their lesson.

***6. What if my child needs to check Go4Schools?***

Students can check Go4Schools at home, during break or lunch using a school computer and before 8.30pm or after 3pm on a phone.

***7. What if they need to check their timetable?***

Students will need to carry a paper timetable with them.

***8. What if they need to check their homework?***

Homework should be completed at home, at Homework Club, or during break or lunch in the Library or the Hub.

***9. What about school trips?***

Depending on the trip, students may be permitted to bring a mobile phone but must follow the rules set out by the trip leader, including any restrictions on when or how phones may be used.

**10. Will the schools insurance cover my child's phone?**

As it is now, the school does not insure personal belongings of students. If you are concerned about loss or damage to a phone you will need to insure it separately.

**11. Will there be enough time for children to get to their lockers before the buses go?**

Yes, this is the current situation for many students and is not a problem. The buses do not leave until 3.10pm and the member of staff who lets the buses go will check before they allow the buses to leave.

**12. Will there be enough time before school to put phones in lockers?**

Yes, this is the current situation and is not a problem. The school is open well before registration so students can arrive in time to go to their locker first and get to registration on time.

**13. What if there are not enough lockers?**

We have purchased more lockers to make sure there will be enough for everyone that would like to hire one.