

# Northenden Community School

Determination Ambition Equality



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Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education (DfE) backed mobile phone-free school environments to stop classroom distractions, improve behaviour and protect student mental health. Therefore, Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2026 states:

‘All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default...the department expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.

You can find more information on the Department for Education’s website [here](#).



Therefore, our school should be mobile phone free and pupils should not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day. Whilst we understand our children in Year 5 and 6 may be walking to and from school by themselves and families feel it is safer for their child to have a mobile phone with them, the children cannot have these in their possession at school.

We feel the simplest way to manage this, is for any pupil who brings a mobile phone to school with them, to hand their phone in to our designated storage phone box at the school gate. These will be locked away in the school office and then handed back out by a member of the team for collection at the school gate at the end of the day.

Please note that this restriction also applies to smart watches and smart technology.

We ask that families support us in this statutory change by discussing with their child the importance of remembering to hand their mobile phone in at the school gate and deciding if they really need to bring their phone to and from school with them at all.

Best wishes,

R. Byrne  
Headteacher



## Article 3 (Best Interests of the Child)

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.