



8 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

From September 2026, **John Mason School will be strengthening its expectations and procedures to ensure that our school remains a truly mobile phone-free environment throughout the entire school day.**

This change reflects recent changes to Department for Education's statutory guidance supporting our aims for a phone-free environment stating that that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. The guidance expects schools to ensure that pupils do not have access to mobile phones throughout the school day, including lessons, changeovers, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

At John Mason school, students are already required to switch their phones off before entering the school site and keep them switched off throughout the day. The vast majority of our students follow this expectation consistently and responsibly. However, in the interests of fairness, consistency and simplicity, we are moving to a system where **students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school at all.**

Historically, we have not included any particular mention of smart devices such as smart watches. From September, in line with guidance from the DofE, these will be treated in the same way as mobile phones. **Students are encouraged not to bring in smart watches or any other smart devices to school.**

For most students, a mobile phone is not needed during the school day, or for the journey to and from school. The limited benefits of carrying a phone are outweighed by the benefits of a phone free environment which include improvements to learning and concentration, the positive impact on wellbeing and relationships and strengthening safeguarding and a safer school environment. Where, due to exceptional circumstances, a student genuinely needs a phone for their journey to and from school, we will provide a system of secure storage using phone lockers and phone pouches to store mobile phones and other smart devices. In these circumstances students will be required to hand in their phone/device on arrival before entering the school site and collect it again at the end of the school day.

More details will follow ahead of the start of the new year.

We believe that spending six and a half hours each day completely free from mobile phones offers significant benefits. It allows students to focus more fully on learning, develop stronger relationships with their peers, engage more positively in school life and enjoy a calmer environment free from the distractions and pressures that phones can bring.

Further information will be provided ahead of the new school year.

Our aim is simple: every student, every day, enjoys the same phone-free experience from the moment they arrive until the moment they leave. This will create greater consistency, fairness and clarity for all members of our school community.

Thank you for your support as we continue to create the best possible learning environment for every student.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair West
Headteacher

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