



King Edward VII School

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2 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Department for Education (DfE) - Guidance on mobile phones in schools

The DfE updated and published its guidance on mobile phones in schools on the 19 January 2026. The purpose of the guidance is to support the learning, behaviour and wellbeing of students by removing digital distractions, such as mobile phones, to ensure that schools remain purposeful learning environments.

The guidance states that:

‘All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default’ during the whole school day, ‘including during lessons, the time between lessons, break times and lunchtime.’

OFSTED will consider the mobile phone policies of schools and how effectively each one is implemented when inspecting behaviour and conduct in schools.

The Governing Board of King Edward VII School discussed the updated guidance on Tuesday 3 February 2026 and supported the move towards full implementation. The guidance has also been discussed in detail by the Leadership Team of the School.

The School has started a phased process to implement the new guidance, taking into account the fact that it already has a well established policy regarding the use of mobile devices in place and banned the use of such devices in the building at Lower School many years ago, while simultaneously restricting the use of devices at Upper School.

The phased process will include:

- Finalising the implementation date for the new policy. A specific date has not been provided by the DfE.
- A review of the School’s current policy to align it with the new guidance and the OFSTED inspection framework.
- Communications with staff, parents, carers and students, including the revised expectations in line with the DfE guidance.



- Consideration of the reasonable adjustments that need to be made for students with medical needs or special educational needs.
- Consideration of how the new guidance applies to our Post 16 provision and students.

I will write to you again when the policy has been finalised and inform you of the implementation date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L Gooden".

Linda Gooden
Headteacher