

14th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a calm, focused and purposeful learning environment, we will be introducing some changes to our mobile phone expectations from September 2026. These changes reflect recent Department for Education guidance and the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2026](#), which supports schools in establishing clear and consistent expectations around mobile phone use and other smart electronic devices.

Over the past year, we have listened carefully to feedback from parents, carers, students and staff regarding our current arrangements. In June, we consulted extensively with parents and carers about mobile phone use in school and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their views.

The consultation demonstrated strong support for maintaining a learning environment where mobile phones are not used during the school day. Many parents highlighted concerns about distraction, social media, safeguarding and the impact of smartphones on students' concentration, wellbeing and relationships. At the same time, parents were clear that students should continue to have access to their phones when travelling to and from school, particularly given the rural nature of our community and the reliance many families place on school transport. Parents also emphasised the importance of any policy being clear, practical and consistently applied by all staff, while retaining appropriate flexibility for medical needs and exceptional circumstances. These views have directly informed the arrangements outlined below.

As a result, we are refining our approach to ensure that expectations are clear, consistent and easy for everyone to understand.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches in School

From September, all students in Years 7–11 will be expected to keep their mobile phones and other smart devices:

- Switched off
- Out of sight
- Stored in their school bag throughout the school day

Students will be reminded of this expectation during morning line-up each day.

Consequences

If a mobile phone or smart device is seen out of a bag and/or switched on during the school day, the following sanctions will apply:

First Incident

- The phone or device will be confiscated.
- A parent or carer must collect the phone or device from school at the end of the next working day.

For example:

- If a phone or device is confiscated on a Monday, it can be collected from the end of the school day on Tuesday.
- If a phone or device is confiscated on a Friday, it can be collected from the end of the school day on Monday.

Second or Subsequent Incident

- The phone or device will be confiscated for five school days.
- A parent or carer must collect the phone or device at the end of the confiscation period.

Refusal to Hand Over a Phone or Device

- Refusal to hand over a mobile phone or device when directed by a member of staff will result in a suspension in line with our Behaviour Policy.
- Following their return to school, the student will be required to hand their phone or device to their Pastoral Support Worker each morning for a period determined by the school.

Sixth Form Students

We recognise that Sixth Form students require greater independence and have different study patterns throughout the day. Students in Years 12 and 13 may use their phones or devices only in the Sixth Form Café and Sixth Form Study Room.

If a Sixth Form student is seen using a phone or device outside of these designated areas, the same sanctions outlined above will apply.

Medical Needs

We understand that some students require access to a mobile device because of a medical condition or specific healthcare need.

Where this applies, individual arrangements will be agreed with families and documented through an appropriate support plan to ensure students can access the support they require while maintaining the integrity of the policy.

Review

We will review the impact of these changes at the end of Half Term 1 to evaluate their effectiveness and consider feedback from students, staff, parents and carers.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a positive learning environment where all students can focus, engage fully in lessons and achieve their very best. These



Huish Episcopi Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

arrangements have been shaped by the views of parents, carers, students and staff, and seek to strike an appropriate balance between supporting learning during the school day and recognising the practical needs of families before and after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Boyes
Principal



**Respect
Ambition
Resilience**

Headteacher: Mrs Katie Boyes

Huish Episcopi Academy is part of United Learning. United Learning comprises: UCST (Registered in England No: 2780748. Charity No. 1016538) and ULT (Registered in England No. 4439859. An Exempt Charity). Companies limited by guarantee. VAT number 834 8515 12. Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB.

Huish Episcopi Academy
Wincanton Road
Langport
Somerset
TA10 9SS
t: 01458 250501
e: office@hea.ac.uk
w: huishepiscopi.net