



WELLNESS  
AMBITION  
TOGETHERNESS  
CONFIDENCE  
HONESTY

# CHOSEN HILL SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Mr M Pauling, Headteacher

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*Registered Office*

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to let you know about an important development in our approach to mobile phones in school. Earlier this year we let you know that we would be investigating a response to Department for Education guidance regarding changes to the use of mobile phones in schools. Subsequently, there has been further strengthening of the guidance, resulting in a decision to update the approach to mobile phones at Chosen Hill School.

From September, we will be moving to a completely phone-free school day for students in Years 7–11. Students who bring a phone to school will still be able to keep it with them, but it will be secured in a pouch they will keep in their bag and it will be unavailable during the school day. We know parents and carers will have practical questions, including how the system will work, what happens if a student forgets their pouch, how urgent messages will be passed on, and how medical needs will be managed. We are briefing students in assemblies this week and have put together an FAQ for parents and carers [here](#)

This approach reflects the current direction from the Department for Education, which is that schools should be mobile phone-free throughout the school day, including lessons, transitions, breaktime and lunchtime.

Mobile phones are part of everyday life, and we recognise that many families want children to have a phone for travel to and from school. However, during the school day, phones create distraction, social pressure, safeguarding concerns and unnecessary disruption to learning. We have visited several schools that have already introduced this approach and are confident that we can do so smoothly. Their experience supports what we already know: when phones are out of circulation, students are more present, more focused and more engaged in school life.

There is also research showing that even when a phone is not being used, simply having it nearby can reduce concentration and available cognitive capacity. In other words, asking students not to use their phones is not always enough; if the phone is accessible, it can still be a distraction.

In assemblies this week, we will focus on why we are making the change: to protect learning, improve behaviour, reduce distractions and help students make the most of their time in school.

For now, we ask for your support in reinforcing the key message at home: students may bring a phone to school for before and after school, but during the school day school should be a phone-free environment.

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During Term 6, as an interim step before pouches are introduced in September, we will be tightening our current expectations: phones must be switched off and in bags, not in pockets or on students' person. We are now asking staff to challenge a potential phone outline seen in a pocket. Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated in line with our current behaviour policy.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Bardgett'.

**Jonathan Bardgett**  
**Deputy Headteacher**