



# Beaumont School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you with regard to our school mobile phone policy, which we last reviewed and consulted on in 2024. You may be aware that under our current policy, we do not permit students in Years 7 - 11 to use a mobile phone during the school day, including at break and lunch times. Indeed, there is no need to bring a phone to Beaumont at all. In practice, this means that students are allowed to keep personal possession of their mobile phones only on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard in school. This also applies to associated devices such as tablets and smartwatches.

Since the last full review of our mobile phones policy, the national and international discourse concerning the impact of smartphones, mobile phones, and social media on young people has intensified and shifted significantly. Following the publication of revised government guidance, significant changes to government policy around the world, and the growing evidence-base concerning the negative impact of smartphones, mobile devices, and social media on young people's mental health and learning, we have conducted a review of our current policy. We are doing so with the main aim of continuing to provide the young people in our care with the best possible learning environment and to do what we can to promote positive mental health and wellbeing both inside and outside of school.

As a school, we have been following these developments carefully and have given the matter a great deal of consideration. We are acutely aware of the ongoing dialogue within our community regarding smartphones, and as we have consistently maintained, we are always open to the possibility of making changes to our practice in the best interests of our students and families.

We are therefore planning a policy adjustment that would formalise a complete smartphone ban for students joining us in Year 7 from September 2026. This would be a significant step towards Beaumont becoming a fully smartphone-free environment for students, and it is our intention that this ban will be implemented as part of a rolling programme, extending to new year groups in subsequent academic years as they arrive at Beaumont. Sixth Form students would, however, remain exempt from this change due to their age, recognising their greater level of independence and progression to life beyond Beaumont.

Under our existing policy we have allowed students to possess a smartphone to respect parental choice for communication and safety outside of school, and to avoid putting unnecessary financial pressure on families to purchase new or alternative devices. However, the ever-growing evidence and the significant shift in the national picture (including messaging from the government) compels us to seek to work towards a fully smartphone-free school environment.



In September, Year 7 students may bring a non-smartphone to school if they choose. A non-smartphone (often called a 'feature phone' or 'brick phone') is a basic device used primarily for calling and texting only, without the distractions of the internet or social media apps. While we maintain that these devices are unnecessary for the school day itself and aim to shift habits away from their use, we appreciate that parents and carers may choose to provide one for added peace of mind during the journey to and from school, for example. There are many affordable and durable non-smartphone options available that meet this need without the distractions of a smartphone. If a student does bring a non-smartphone, it must be switched off at all times and stored securely in a locker or at the bottom of their bag—not in a blazer or pocket. Any phone that is seen or used during the school day will be confiscated in accordance with our behaviour policy, which will be updated later this academic year.

A shared commitment between home and school is essential to the success of this policy. We appreciate your cooperation as we move forward with this change, which is designed to protect young people during this important transition by fostering a focused and distraction-free environment. Thank you for helping us ensure the best possible start for our newest students at Beaumont.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Atkinson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin Atkinson  
**Headteacher**