



**HEADTEACHER**  
Mr G Pendlebury  
**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER**  
Mr N Maguire

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Ref: MP/ GPN

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Use of Mobile Phones in Schools**

I am writing to provide an update following my message of 27th January on the recent non-statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance to schools on the use of mobile phones in schools.

As you know, Great Marlow School has historically made thoughtful and effective use of mobile phones to enhance learning. In multiple subjects, this has supported strong teaching and learning and improved student outcomes.

However, the new government non-statutory guidance and the expectation that Ofsted will reinforce this will require Great Marlow School to consider significant changes. At the same time, schools do not have the additional funding needed to replace mobile phone-based learning tools with alternative technology at such short notice. While we have sufficient laptops and devices for students who do not own a mobile phone, we do not have enough to replace the devices currently used for specific curriculum activities.

We have already informed the parents of next year's Year 7 that mobile phones will no longer be used for learning in lessons and that students will need a laptop to use at school. It is likely this request, to use a laptop will need to be extended to all year groups soon.

For this reason, and to ensure changes are practical, effective, and in students' best interests, we ask for your patience while we undertake a planned and coordinated transition away from mobile phone use in lessons and changes to the management of phones in schools.

## Expectations After February Half Term

From the first day back after the break, the following rules will apply and will be enforced consistently:

- Once students enter the school site, **mobile phones must be switched off and stored in school bags.**
- Phones must remain in bags **for the entire school day.**
- If a device is **seen, used or heard**, it will be confiscated.

This aligns with our 'Not Seen, Not Used, Not Heard' strategy.

## Consequences

- **First breach:** phone confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- **Repeated breaches:** escalating consequences, which may include parental collection, detentions, and/or pastoral intervention.

## Exceptions

To facilitate a planned and coordinated transition away from mobile phone use in lessons there will be some very necessary exceptions. These will be communicated to both you and students beforehand and will be carefully monitored.

There may also be exceptions made for students with specific medical needs.

## Sixth Form Students

At this time, Sixth Form students may use mobile phones:

- Only in **designated Sixth Form areas**
- Only during **break and lunch** or **independent study**

Misuse will lead to the removal of Sixth Form privileges and sanctions in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

This will be kept under review.

## How Parents and Carers Can Help

We ask for your support by:

- Reinforcing expectations with your child at home
- Avoiding contacting your child on their mobile phone during the day
- Contacting the school via:
  - **General enquiries:** [info@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:info@gms.bucks.sch.uk)
  - **Attendance:** [attendance@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@gms.bucks.sch.uk)
- Only calling the main school number **01628 483752** if your matter is urgent

## Looking Ahead

Between now and May Half Term, we will be surveying students, parents, and staff. Your input will help shape the Mobile Phone Policy that:

- Responds to the current DfE non-statutory guidance and any future changes
- Meets the needs of our school community
- Is realistic, fair, and implementable

We understand that views on mobile phone use in schools vary widely among parents/ carers, and we are committed to listening carefully before final decisions are made.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as we work to balance high-quality learning, safety, wellbeing, and government expectations.

Yours sincerely

Guy Pendlebury

Headteacher