



September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Reminder of Our Smartphone-Free School Approach

We hope that your child has enjoyed their first few days at Avonbourne and has settled positively into Avonbourne life. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students, and we have been incredibly impressed by their enthusiasm, conduct and engagement as they begin this exciting new chapter.

As students continue to establish routines and expectations, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of our smartphone-free school approach for Year 7 students.

As outlined in our communication prior to September, Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies is committed to creating a safe, focused and positive learning environment where students can thrive both academically and personally. A key part of this commitment is reducing the risks associated with smartphones and social media for young people.

A Reminder of Our Expectations

Year 7 students must not bring smartphones onto the Academy site.

If a phone is required for travel arrangements or communication before and after school, students may bring a basic mobile phone that:

- Allows calls and texts only
- Has no internet access or apps
- Has no camera

These phones must be:

- Switched off upon arrival at the academy
- Kept in the bottom of the student's bag throughout the school day
- Not removed or used whilst on the academy site

Why This Matters

Our smartphone-free approach has been introduced to:

- Improve safeguarding and student wellbeing
- Reduce exposure to online harms
- Support students to focus fully on learning and building friendships
- Minimise distractions during the school day
- Promote independence, resilience and positive social interaction

We greatly appreciate the support that many families have already shown in helping students follow these expectations.

Working Together

We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to discuss this expectation with your child and ensure that they understand the Academy's expectations.

To ensure that our smartphone-free approach is implemented consistently, any year 7 student who brings a smartphone onto the Avonbourne site will have the device confiscated. The smartphone will be returned in a meeting held between



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a parent/carer and a member of the Year Team at a mutually agreed time. This meeting will provide an opportunity to reaffirm expectations and work together to support future compliance with the policy.

This reflects the importance we place on safeguarding, student wellbeing and maintaining a focused learning environment for all students.

We thank you for your continued support as we work together to establish positive habits and routines that will help ensure a successful and enjoyable first year at Avonbourne.

Yours sincerely,

David Gorvin
Vice Principal

Nikki Dadson
Assistant Principal

Head of School: Imogen Bull

Executive Principal: Michelle Dyer

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