



Tuesday 3rd March, 2026

An update on Mobile Phone use at St Thomas More

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, updated national guidance has recently been shared with schools outlining strengthened expectations around limiting mobile phone use during the school day. We are pleased to say that our current approach is already working effectively in ensuring a calm, focused learning environment.

For your convenience, a reminder of our current expectations is outlined below for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils:

- If a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, it should be switched off and stored in their bag.
- Pupils must not use mobile phones at any point during the school day, including social times.
- If a pupil is seen using a mobile phone, or if it causes disruption, staff will request that the phone is handed over.
- Pupils can then collect their phone at the end of the school day.

Beginning today, on the rare occasion that a pupil refuses to hand their phone to a member of staff and a senior leader or pastoral team member is required to intervene, we will ask that you, or another family member, collect the phone from reception. In these circumstances, the phone will not be returned to the pupil on the same day only to a family member. Pupils have been informed of this change today by their tutors.

For our Key Stage 5 students, we continue to expect them to act as role models for younger pupils. While sixth formers may use mobile phones in the sixth form area to support their study, they should not use them elsewhere around school. It would be highly unlikely that we would need to intervene by confiscating a phone from a sixth form student, but we will do so if necessary to maintain consistent expectations across the school.

Looking ahead, we are reviewing our longer-term practice in line with the updated guidance. From September, we are likely to introduce the use of magnetic storage pouches for pupils who choose to bring a phone to school. Further details will be shared later in the year.



Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Your partnership helps us maintain a safe, orderly and purposeful environment for all pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner
Head Teacher

