

PS501/25-26/SLI/KLA

Friday 12 June 2026

A change to our rules relating to smartphones in school

Dear parents/carers,

From September 2026, students in Years 7 and 8 **must not bring smartphones or smartwatches into school.**

If a Year 7 or 8 student is seen with a smartphone or smartwatch on site, **it will be confiscated and kept safely for 5 school days.** A parent/carer will need to collect it from school.

We are making this change because we are increasingly concerned about the effect smartphones and social media can have on children's learning, behaviour, wellbeing and safety. Many parents and schools now share these concerns, and a growing number of local schools are bringing in similar rules. In addition, the White Paper currently being considered by the Government may be seeking to strengthen rules around mobile devices in schools.

This is not an anti-technology policy. We will continue to use technology to support learning. However, we believe students learn and socialise better during the school day without smartphones.

Students in Years 7 and 8 may bring a simple "brick" phone to school if needed for travel or safety. These phones must be switched off and kept in bags during the day. If used during school hours, they will be confiscated and returned to parents/carers the same day.

Students can still contact home through the school office or pastoral team if needed.

For students in Years 9–11, the current rules will stay in place during 2026–27. Any phones that are seen or used will be confiscated and returned to parents/carers the same day.

From September 2027, the new smart device rules will apply to all year groups.

There will still be exceptions for students who need a smart device for medical or SEND reasons. These arrangements will continue to be managed by the medical and SEND teams.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions appear on page 2 of this letter. If, having read those, you have further questions, please contact the school via office@theangmeringschool.co.uk.

Thank you for your support.

Simon Liley
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Why are you making this change now?

Our main reasons are the welfare of students and the need to support parents/carers who do not feel that their children need to own smartphones. Another key factor is the recent change in local primary schools where smartphones are now being actively discouraged.

What evidence are you basing this decision on?

In a 2024 [survey](#) of parents/carers 83% of parents agreed that smartphones were harmful to children and 77% of primary school parents/carer supported a ban on smartphones for children under 16. Despite these strong feelings from parents/carers, around 90% of 12 year olds reported owning a smartphone. There is clearly a strong pressure on parents to allow their children to have a smartphone despite clear feelings that they cause harm. We must also remember that the minimum age for most social media access is 13 years of age and that social media companies are being challenged by the government to enforce this more strongly. Additional information, including relevant research relating to the impact of smartphones, can be found [here](#).

How will I ensure that my child is safe if they do not have a smartphone?

Children will be able to contact home during the school day by speaking to a member of staff who will allow them to phone on a school landline. If you wish your child to have a phone because they may need to contact you before or after school hours, they may bring a 'non-smart' or 'brick' phone in their bag provided it is turned off during the school day. If you currently use an app on your child's phone to track their location you may wish to consider a low cost 'tag' which provides this same function. These are available from companies such as [Ubeequeue](#). There are also SIM cards which allow you to track your child's 'brick' phone via the mobile network - companies such as [parentshield](#) offer these types of SIMs.

My child uses their smartphone for homework - how will they do this now?

The school does not wish to impose any restrictions on the technology which you allow your child to have at home. Children can complete their online homework on laptops, tablets or desktops, most of which are cheaper and have better functionality for home learning than a smartphone. We also have a homework club at lunchtime and after school where students can access school computers if required.

Why are you only applying this policy change to Year 7 and 8 students next year?

Whilst we believe that this is an important change to the culture of smartphone use, we understand that older students may have more deeply engrained reliance on smartphones and that they will need a longer 'take up time' to adjust to the new rules. We are therefore phasing the rule change in over two years.

Will staff and sixth form students still be allowed to use smartphones?

Yes. Staff use smartphones and tablets, as well as desktops and laptops, to carry out vital functions such as registration, work related communication, safeguarding and other operational activities. We will however ensure that staff and sixth formers limit their use of smartphones to specific areas and functions during the school day.

My child uses a 'smart ticket' on their phone when they catch the train to school. What will they do now?

Train companies offer smartcards as an alternative to using a smartphone for smart tickets. Smartcards are reusable, credit-card sized cards where you can store tickets. You can put multiple tickets on a single smartcard. You use your smartcard to tap on a reader to get into or out of a station. Bus companies also offer passes which take the form of a physical card.

My child needs to use a smartphone because of a specific medical or SEND need. Will this still be allowed?

Yes. There are already a few students who use their smartphones (at agreed times and in agreed locations) to do things such as check their blood glucose levels. Other children, with specific learning needs, have the targeted use of a smart device built into their learning plans. This will not change under the new rules. These provisions will continue to be managed by the medical and SEND team.

Is this new system legal?

Yes. There are provisions in both the [Education Act](#) and [DfE guidance](#) which support schools to confiscate any items which are banned under their behaviour policy.