



Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

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EC/bg

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile Phone Policy: Your Questions Answered

Summary of Actions	Deadline
For Information.	N/A

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our consultation so far. Your feedback has been thoughtful and constructive, and it is genuinely shaping our thinking. Below are answers to the questions we have been asked most often.

Why can't the interim arrangement become the final policy?

Because it does not meet the DfE's statutory guidance, which schools have been expected to follow since 1 September. The guidance expects pupils not to have access to their phones at any point in the school day. A phone in a bag the pupil carries all day is still accessible, and ministers have confirmed in Parliament that this kind of approach does not meet the standard. Ofsted now checks this on every inspection.

Isn't this saying pupils can't be trusted?

No. The vast majority of our students follow the rules, and we are grateful to them. This is a national expectation for every school, designed to remove the distraction and pressure of phones for everyone.

What happens in the meantime?

The interim arrangement stays in place until a final approach is agreed: phones and smart watches switched off before entering the site and kept in bags, not on the person, all day.

What are the options?

Option A is lockable pouches: phones are locked away on arrival and unlocked at the end of the day, at an upfront cost of more than £18,000 plus ongoing costs and daily supervision. Option B is no smartphones or smart watches on site, with a basic phone (typically £15 to £20) available for the journey to and from school.

What about students who need a phone?

Under either option there will be exceptions for medical needs, and the school office will always help students contact home when needed.

What happens next?

The consultation closes on **Friday 10 October**. We will discuss findings with Parent Forum on 15 October and take proposals to the Local Governing Body in November. You will receive clear guidance by the end of November, and the agreed approach will begin in January 2027.



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If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so here: [Bottisham Village College Mobile Phone Consultation 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Compton
Deputy Principal