

29th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carers

## **FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING FAIRFAX ACADEMY'S MOBILE PHONE POLICY CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026**

Earlier this term, I wrote to you outlining Fairfax Academy's strengthened approach to mobile phones from September 2026. Thank you for the positive responses and support we have received from many families regarding these important changes.

As we continue to prepare for implementation, I would like to provide further clarity regarding the consequences that will apply when students choose to use, display or access a smartphone during the school day.

As outlined previously, our aim is not to punish students but to create a culture where mobile phones are simply not part of the school day. We want our students to focus on learning, build positive relationships with one another, engage fully in academy life and enjoy a school environment free from the distractions and pressures that smartphones can bring.

The expectations themselves are straightforward. Students may bring a smartphone to school if families wish them to do so, but the device must remain switched off, out of sight and securely stored at the bottom of their bag throughout the day.

To ensure consistency and fairness, all incidents involving smartphones will be recorded centrally. It is important that parents and carers are aware that these sanctions are cumulative and **will not reset at the end of a term or academic year**. As students' progress through Fairfax Academy, repeated breaches of the mobile phone policy will result in increasingly serious consequences.

### **Mobile Phone Sanction Ladder**

#### **First Incident**

- Smartphone confiscated.
- Parent or carer required to collect the device between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.
- 30-minute detention.

#### **Second Incident**

- Smartphone confiscated.
- Parent or carer required to collect the device between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.
- 1-hour detention.

#### **Third Incident**

- Smartphone confiscated.
- Parent or carer required to collect the device between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.
- 1-hour detention.
- One full day in Refocus.

#### **Fourth Incident**

- Smartphone confiscated.
- Parent or carer required to collect the device between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.
- 1-hour detention.
- Three days in Respite.

#### **Fifth Incident**

- Smartphone confiscated.
- Parent or carer required to collect the device between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.
- One-day suspension.
- Two days in Refocus.

As previously communicated, any student who refuses a reasonable instruction from a member of staff to hand over a phone will face suspension. Refusing to follow a direct staff instruction is a serious matter and undermines the safe and orderly operation of the academy.

#### **Why Have We Adopted This Approach?**

We know from experience that clear expectations, applied consistently, lead to the greatest success. Students thrive when boundaries are understood by everyone and enforced fairly.

The vast majority of our students are responsible young people who follow academy expectations every day. We fully expect that most students will never receive a mobile phone sanction because complying with the policy is simple: phones remain switched off, out of sight and in bags throughout the school day.

The sanction ladder has been designed to provide clear opportunities for students to make better choices while also ensuring that repeated breaches are addressed robustly. It is important that all students understand that bringing a smartphone onto the academy site is a choice, and with that choice comes the responsibility to follow academy expectations.

#### **How Parents Can Help**

Over the coming months, we encourage families to begin discussing these expectations with their children. A simple conversation about why the academy is taking this approach and the importance of adhering to the policy can make a significant difference.

We also continue to recommend the use of a phone pouch or storage case so that students can place their device away before arriving at school. Many families find this a useful way of reducing temptation and helping students develop positive habits.

Thank you once again for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that Fairfax Academy remains a safe, calm and focused environment where every young person has the very best opportunity to succeed.

Yours faithfully



**SEAN CASTLE**  
**Principal**