

2 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

At Bohunt Farnborough, keeping students safe and happy is one of our top priorities. Over the last 18 months, we've listened to feedback from parents and students to help improve our school. One thing we hear a lot about is concern over how young people use their mobile phones.

Because of this, we have decided that from September 2025, Bohunt Farnborough will be a **mobile phone-free school**. We know this will be a change, but we believe it will help all our students do their best. We are grateful for your support in making this happen.

Below, we explain why we are making this change, how it will work, and where you can find more information.

Why are we doing this?

To keep students safe

Students who use the internet and social media without limits are more likely to see upsetting content, be bullied online, or be contacted by strangers. By limiting phone use, we can help protect students from these risks and help them focus on learning.

To support mental health

[More and more research](#) shows that too much time on smartphones and social media can lead to problems like anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Cutting back on phone use can help students feel better and stay more focused in school.

To reduce distractions

The average teenager gets 237 phone notifications a day! This makes it hard to concentrate and can even become a habit that's hard to break. Studies show that just having a phone nearby can lower your ability to think clearly. Removing phones during the school day helps students learn better. You might want to check out two short videos that explain this well:

- ["A Stolen Childhood"](#) (7 minutes)
- ["Our Kids, Their Screens, the Evidence"](#) (4 minutes)

Many countries, including France, Sweden, and Australia, are already limiting phone use in schools. The UK government is also looking at bringing in a national rule to restrict smartphones in schools.

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How will the new phone policy work?

Starting **September 2025**:

- **Year 7 and Year 8 students** will hand in their switched-off phones to their tutor during morning registration, as part of our “Smart Start” routine.
- Phones will be kept safely in labelled boxes in a secure location and given back at the end of the school day.

Mobile phones will become a prohibited item in school from September, therefore if a student is found with a phone during the day:

- It will be taken away and a parent will need to collect it.
- The student may also receive a suitable consequence.

From January 2026, this routine will also include **Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11**.

From September, Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11 phones must be **switched off and in bags** as soon as students arrive at school and before tutor time.

What else are we doing to support students?

Our **PSHE lessons and assemblies** will help students understand why we are doing this and how to stay safe online. Because students in Years 7 and 8 are still going through key stages of brain development, they will be the first to follow the new routine.

If you ever need to contact your child during the school day, please call our school reception. Our phone collection system is already working well in other Bohunt schools, and phones are returned quickly and safely at the end of each day.

We believe this change will help students build healthier habits and enjoy more face-to-face time with friends. If you have any questions, please contact **Mr Bridle** or **Ms Pope** at:

dbridle@bohunftarnborough.com

mpope@bohunftarnborough.com

Thank you for your support as we work together to help students succeed at Bohunt Farnborough.

Yours sincerely



Ms M Pope
DSL & Assistant Headteacher



Mr D Bridle
Assistant Headteacher

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