



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs** BA (Hons)
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

20th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to tell you about new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) about mobile phones in schools. Some details are still not clear, but I want to explain what these changes could mean for our school.

The DfE says that all schools must update their behaviour policies before 1 September 2026. Schools will need to:

- ban the use of mobile phones and similar smart devices during the school day. This includes lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes and between lessons.
- include this ban in their behaviour policy and make sure students and parents understand it.

Schools can choose the best way to manage this. For example, phones could be handed in, kept in lockers, or stored in another secure way. Over the last few months, we have been looking at different options to find the best solution for our school and Trust.

We know that many students travel to and from school on their own and may need a phone for safety. Because of this, we will not ask students to leave their phones at home. We understand that this could cause concerns for some families and may not be practical for our school.

When we have decided on the best approach, we will write to you again with full details. We will also make sure students understand the new rules and what they need to do.

The DfE says that schools can make exceptions for students with medical needs or disabilities. If your child needs a phone for a medical reason, such as diabetes monitoring, please do not worry. We will look at each case carefully and put the right support in place.

Our school is already a "no phones" school, which means students cannot use mobile phones during lessons, breaktimes or lunchtimes. However, the DfE has said that a "not seen, not heard" approach is no longer enough. This means we will need to make some changes to our current rules.

We know that these new rules will be a challenge for schools across the country. However, we are committed to making sure any changes are right for our students and help them to succeed.

Thank you for your patience and support while we work through these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs
Executive Head Teacher

