

Headteacher:
Mrs C Doherty, BSC (Hons), PGCE, NPQH



Founded in 1717

BAINES SCHOOL

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Ref: Dup/cpo

29th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you will have seen the reports in the news recently about the growing number of schools choosing to go phone-free, and the positive outcomes this has had on students in terms of learning outcomes, behaviour and social relationships. It has also led to a decrease in the number of issues schools are seeing caused by the use of social media.

As a staff body, we have discussed at length whether a similar policy could work for our school community. Dealing with inappropriate mobile phone usage during the school day takes up an increasing amount of staff time and contributes to poor behaviour including bullying.

It is important to us that students feel safe in school and can fully focus on their learning whilst at Baines School. Our Governors, teaching and pastoral staff feel that allowing our students to have access to their mobile phones during the school day is hindering our ability to create a safe environment for our students and affects the culture of our school. We have been encouraged by the positive results seen in phone-free schools, and as such, we have decided that we will adopt this policy at Baines School from 1st September 2026.

We appreciate that many students will need to access their mobile phones on the journey to and from school, and so we are not looking to ban students from bringing their mobile phones to school altogether. Instead, we will be asking students to use magnetic Phone Locker pouches to manage their phone usage at school.

These pouches remain in the possession of the students, but can only be unlocked at a centralised point, meaning that the school controls students' access to them. Our research into phone-free schools gives us confidence that this method provides students and teachers with the most convenient and flexible way to manage phone usage. All students will be expected to use these pouches if they would like to bring their mobile phones to school.

These pouches cost £12, which will be payable via Parentpay. Please see the details below for how to make payment.

<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v5/#/login>.

Families who feel the need for financial support to purchase this pouch, please contact school.

We know that many of you share our concerns about your children's phone usage, and we hope that you will be supportive of this initiative. Your support of this policy at home will be instrumental in



ensuring that we can implement it successfully at school. Any students who choose not to use the pouches will not be allowed to bring their mobile phone to school at all.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'U' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Mr D Uphill
Deputy Headteacher