Baines School

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The Governors of Baines School

Mobile Phone Policy

Date Adopted By Baines Governors: 14th September 2026

Date approved: 14th September 2026

Due for review: February 2027 (in line with the behaviour policy)

Context

There has been significant coverage in the news in recent months over the use of mobile phones in schools and how this affects the learning within school and how they can lead to bullying and inappropriate web usage. The government have now advised that mobile devices should be banned from schools. Despite being on silent, pupils receive messages from friends during lessons distracting from learning and focus.

Many schools are deeply concerned about the effect mobile phones are having on children's ability to socialise with each other. These concerns also centre around the potential for inappropriate use in school and pose a safeguarding risk.

There has also been published information about the effect of mobile phones and the real impact on students' achievements. The London School of Economics conducted a comparative study on schools that had banned smartphones from their premises or required them to hand them in at the beginning of the school day verses schools that hadn't. On average, the chances of getting five quality GCSE grades at schools where a ban was in place increased by an average of 2%. This achievement was even more marked amongst pupils at the lower end of achievement as on these pupils went up by 4%.

All schools will be expected to ban the use of mobile phones, and this document is meant to clarify the school's position regarding the use of mobile phones from September 2026 onwards.

Aim

- To clarify the school's position on use of mobile phones.
- To ensure that pupils, staff are fully safeguarded against incidents involving the use of mobile phones.
- To ensure that all staff fully understand the position of the school in order to consistently implement it.
- To ensure that parents are fully aware of the change and the reasons for the changes.

Guidelines – BAINES IS A MOBILE DEVICE FREE SCHOOL

- Mobile devices (including smartwatches) must be placed in the magnetic pouches until the school site has been exited. Headphones and portable speakers should not be seen.

- Pouches will be checked in line-up or form time to ensure that they are properly closed. Any pupil who has not/does not use a pouch could be searched to ensure they have no access to devices.

- All phones seen by any member of staff during the school day will be confiscated and will only be returned when collected by a parent/carer.

- Any phones that are confiscated will be handed in to the Pastoral Office for safe keeping where a record of misuse will be kept. The pupil will be sanctioned for accessing the mobile device in a no device school setting.

- Repeat breaches of the school's position will result in more serious sanctions being given including a full ban on bringing the device into school. Parents will have to collect the phone from school if the device is not in a pouch, and therefore it may not be possible to return the phone on the day it is taken.

- At the end of the day once the pupil has exited the school building, the pouches may be opened, and the phone may be used.

- During extra-curricular events / fixtures where transport may need to be arranged, mobile phones can be used to contact parents/carers for reasons relating to transport regarding the activity under the direction of the staff member.