



Tuesday 5 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Lincroft Academy, becoming truly phone free School

I am writing to share our response to the updated Department for Education guidance issued in February 2026, which makes clear that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions being very limited. This updated guidance strengthens expectations that mobile phones should not be used, seen, or cause disruption during the school day. Further information on the Department for Education guidance can be found here [DFE Guidance can be found here.](#)

Our recent parent and carer survey gave us a very clear message. Almost all respondents told us that they believed that 'the use of smartphones and other devices can have a negative impact on children's and young people's mental health' (95%) and over 80% of respondents believed that the amount of time their children spent on their mobile phones was inappropriate. Nearly all respondents told us they believed social pressures means that young people are given smartphones at a too young age. However, 50% said their child needed to bring their phone to school with them.

Respondents also made it clear that connectivity before and after school remains important for safety, travel, and communication, and we fully agree! We also recognise our responsibility to help students and families understand how to manage smart technology, emerging AI tools, and an always-connected world safely and appropriately. Our aim is to help students develop healthy and balanced habits that support them throughout their lifetime.

Our intended approach will allow students to bring their phones to school, but devices will be stored securely in a sealed pouch that students keep in their bags throughout the school day. After successful implementation within our Trust, we plan to introduce the Hush Pouch system for all students in Years 7–11 In the Autumn term (September 2026).



Community



Aspiration



Respect



Excellence



This approach will help us to:

- Support students' mental health and wellbeing through six and a half phone-free hours each day.
- Create a calm and focused learning environment, free from disruption and online pressure.
- Encourage positive, in-person social interactions during break and lunchtime.

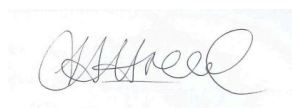
Over the coming weeks, we will run pilot trials and share further information about how the system will work specifically, including practical guidance and opportunities to give feedback. An information evening is planned for May 11th 5:30-6:30pm, please sign up using the link if you would like to attend.

[Lincroft Academy, becoming a truly phone free School - Parent Information Evening. – Fill out form](#)

We have worked with our Academy Council and partner schools in Meridian Trust to produce a set of [frequently asked questions](#). This is based on the experiences of schools already using the Hush Pouch system. While not exhaustive, we hope it offers clear guidance on how the system will work.

We will continue to gather feedback throughout our trial periods and publish final guidance by June. Thank you, as always, for your support as we continue to create the healthiest possible learning environment for our students.

With kind regards.



Mrs Jodie Attreed

Vice Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead