
Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy

Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP

Tel: 01928 711643 email: admin@ob-ac.co.uk

Principal: Kathryn Evans BA (Hons) NPQH



Ref: KES/MSE

28th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about an update to our mobile phones policy at OBA. As you will no doubt be aware, mobile phones are increasingly being used by students both when at school and at home. However, a significant amount of research, including guidance from the [Department for Education](#), clearly shows the negative impact this can have on student learning, behaviour, and wellbeing.

Over recent months, we have worked closely with Ormiston Chadwick Academy and the Trust who have all successfully implemented a phone free school policy to understand how this might work for our school community and to ensure we have clear knowledge and understanding of its impact on our students.

We have therefore taken the carefully considered decision to transition to a mobile-phone free learning environment from January 2025, when students return from their Christmas holidays.

At OBA we are committed to laying the foundations for a successful future for all our students. Creating a calm, safe and distraction free environment is a core part of this, alongside a knowledge rich-curriculum and excellent teaching which creates a more positive school environment for everyone.

Ormiston Academies Trust is also moving towards phone free schools in line with recent published government guidance and extensive research. As an academy, we wholeheartedly support this initiative, as we believe it will support our students across a range of areas such as behaviour and attainment but, most importantly, the mental health and wellbeing of your child.

New Academy Process

From January, students will switch off and hand in mobile phones at the beginning of morning registration. Each student will have an allocated number in their secure phone box in their form room. Each phone box will then be collected by the Senior Leadership Team and Head of Years and moved to a locked and secure location.

Students will have phones returned to them at the end of the school day, during afternoon registration which will begin at 2.50pm and end at 3.00pm.

Students who arrive late to school and miss morning registration will hand in their phones at Reception instead. Their phones will be stored in a separate phone box which will be stored behind our reception. Students will collect their phones at the end of the day. Should a student be required to complete a detention, their phone will be returned to them at the end of this detention.

As is the case with all school policies, there will be flexibilities in place to allow for students who need to access their phone during the school day for medical reasons or emergencies. We also want to reiterate that should your child have a concern or be unwell during the school day, the robust safeguarding and safety

processes we currently have in place will be followed and we will contact you directly to inform you of any matters.

Next Steps

As a core part of our school community, we will of course keep you updated throughout this process. I hope this letter shares a helpful update and answers any immediate questions you may have. However, I have also included a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that will answer further questions and some useful evidence below on the benefits of mobile-phone free schools. I will also soon share a video message to provide further information.

On Thursday 12th December 2024 from 3.30-6.30pm, members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to discuss our new mobile phone procedures with any parents or carers who wish to make an appointment. To book an appointment with a member of our team, please contact the school reception at admin@ob-ac.co.uk / 01928 711643

We will also be speaking to all students in year group assemblies to ensure they are fully aware of the new policy, the positive benefits it will bring for our learning environment, and the new processes.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Evans
Principal