

1st June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of an important update to the mobile phone arrangements at The Birley Academy.

As you may already be aware from national news earlier this year, the government has stated that *"all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only"*.

For us at The Birley Academy, this means that from September 2026 our school will be a phone-free environment. We will be introducing the use of secure mobile phone pouches for each student which prevent phone usage but allow the device to remain with the student throughout the day.

All secondary academies within the L.E.A.D. Trust will be adopting this approach and many secondary schools have also decided to be phone-free from September 2026.

Further details about how these changes will operate on a day-to-day basis will be shared with you in advance, before the new academic year begins in September.

In the interim period, our policy remains that mobile phone usage is not permitted during the school day.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who completed our recent questionnaire about mobile phone usage. Your feedback, alongside national guidance, has helped to shape this carefully considered approach.

Many parents highlighted concerns around cyberbullying, unauthorised filming, wellbeing and social pressures. Parents also agreed that phones should not be used during lessons. However, many still want their children to have phone access outside of school, for the journey to/from school, emergency contact and location tracking purposes.

We fully share parents' and carers' views, and our students' safety, wellbeing and learning remain our utmost priority.

Drop-in information evening – Thursday 25th June

We understand that you may have questions about this change. We will be holding a drop-in information evening on Thursday 25th June from 5.30pm-6.30pm and encourage you to attend so you can ask questions and discuss the new approach with staff.

In the meantime, we hope you find the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our website helpful.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a calm, safe and focused learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Hall
Headteacher