

5th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sixth Form Mobile Phone Use



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

I am writing to remind you of our expectations regarding mobile phone use within the Sixth Form at Barr Beacon School. At Barr Beacon School, we are extremely proud of the resilient, dedicated and hard-working pupils we support every day. However, it has recently become apparent that a number of Sixth Form students are not adhering to our agreed expectations concerning the appropriate use of mobile phones on the school site.

Sixth Form students are permitted to bring mobile phones onto site; however, this is a privilege based on trust and responsibility. Phones must not be seen or used during the school day unless a student has been specifically instructed to use their device by a teacher as part of a lesson, or when they are in the Sixth Form common room during social time. Phones should not be used while moving around the school site, and the use of headphones or AirPods outside permitted areas is not allowed. We are increasingly concerned by the number of students walking around the school site with phones visible and headphones in use. This behaviour disrupts learning, undermines our expectations, and presents a significant avoidable safeguarding risk.

In addition, there is a growing body of educational research highlighting the negative impact of mobile phone use on concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Studies by organisations such as the OECD and UNESCO, as well as research conducted by the London School of Economics, show that limiting mobile phone access during the school day leads to improved focus, better engagement in learning and stronger academic progress, particularly for older students preparing for examinations.

This letter therefore is a reminder that mobile phones are not permitted on the school site outside of the Sixth Form common room or a lesson in which their use has been explicitly authorised. If students are unable to follow this rule, a 60-minute detention will be issued. In line with school policy, the phone will be confiscated, and a meeting will be arranged with parents or carers for its collection. Please note that phones may be retained by the school for up to two weeks. We ask that you remind your son or daughter of these clear expectations and support us in maintaining a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



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