



Aylsham High School

*Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation
It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child*

Dear Parent/Carer

January 2026

Update on devices in school

In response to the government's announcements in relation to strengthening guidance in relation to mobile phones in schools and as a result of our review of our current mobile phone policy the governors and leaders of AHS have decided to extend our current restrictions to cover the whole school day and whole school site. This aligns completely with the updated government guidance.

As of 23 February 2026 students will have to ensure their mobile phones, personal computer, tablet devices, and smartwatches are switched off and placed in their bag before they enter the school site. These devices must remain there until students have left the site at the end of the school day. The same will be expected of headphones whether wired, Bluetooth, in ear or over ear. All these items must be kept in bags and not in trouser or blazer pockets. Phones spotted in pockets will also be confiscated and placed in the school safe.

The date of 23 February gives us time to update key policies and procedures and to ensure students clearly understand our expectations fully. It also allows us to address logistical issues in order to help us manage systems effectively.

Those students who use a laptop provided by the school will still be able to use these devices in class. We will of course make the necessary accommodations for vital health monitoring equipment such as that used to manage diabetes.

As per our current established routines, failure to comply with these rules will result in devices being confiscated and placed in the school safe. If a device is seen or heard it will be confiscated. Repeated failure to follow expectations will result in students having to hand their devices in each day for a sustained period of time.

We will be exploring further solutions to help support the management of phones in school between now and September and will keep parents informed of any developments if they are deemed to be necessary.

We will continue to make use of our SIMS student and parent app to manage homework and aspects of vital home school communication. Whilst personal technology will be called upon to complete certain homework assignments it will not be used in the classroom environment. Students will be provided with a pocket sized copy of their timetable prior to 23 February.

For school trips and visits guidance will be issued on a trip by trip basis. We know that phones are often used as the main means of taking photographs and video on foreign residential trips and can be a safe way of managing spending money. They are also very practical for communicating with parents in the event of a travel delay.

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Spalding B.A. (Hons) M.Ed. (Cantab)

Deputy Headteachers: Mr C Bridge B.Sc. (Hons), Mr P Brockington B.Sc. (Hons) M.A., Mrs K Garnham B.A. (Hons) M.A.

Director of Business and Community Strategy: Mrs J Tuttle



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Should you require to message your child/children during school hours we would ask that you go through our office team via email or phone rather than direct to your child. They will be able to pass on any vital messages in a timely and sensitive manner. They can be reached on office@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk or via our main switchboard at 01263 733270.

The fact that students will still be able to bring technology with them and keep it switched off in their bags means that they will have it for the journey to and from school and for things like paying for bus travel. This helps to ensure that safety and logistical concerns can be addressed.

Thank you for your support and attention in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Duncan Spalding
Executive Headteacher