



20 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **RE: Mobile Phone Policy for SEND Pupils**

I am writing to update you on our school's procedures following the Department for Education's new national guidance on mobile phones in schools. The DfE now expects all schools to operate a "no mobile phones during the school day" approach to support learning, reduce distractions, and promote a calm environment.

#### **What this means for pupils with sensory needs:**

We fully appreciate that some pupils with sensory processing needs rely on background noise or white noise to regulate and remain comfortable in school. However, under the new DfE guidance, mobile phones cannot be used for this purpose.

To support your child's needs while remaining compliant with national expectations, pupils who require white noise must use a dedicated MP3 player or similar device that does not have Wi-Fi, data, camera, or messaging functions.

Staff will be made aware of pupils who require this reasonable adjustment, and your child will be able to use their MP3 player discreetly as agreed.

#### **Mobile Phones on Site:**

To meet the national "no phones" expectation:

- Pupils may bring a phone to school only for safety while travelling, but it must be switched off and stored in their bag at all times.
- Phones must not be used, even for sensory regulation, music, or white noise.
- Any infringements—including taking a phone out, using it, or having it switched on— will result in the phone being confiscated in line with school policy.

We will always communicate with you if this happens and ensure the item is returned appropriately.

#### **Why the change:**

The DfE guidance aims to:

- Reduce distractions and disruption
- Support pupils' wellbeing
- Minimise online bullying, recording, or social-media incidents
- Help create a calm, focused learning environment

You can read the Government guidance titled "Mobile phones in schools: guidance for maintained schools, academies and alternative provision" (DfE, 2024) on the GOV.UK website.

#### **What we need from you:**

If your child requires white noise for sensory regulation, please ensure they have:

- A simple MP3 player (non-internet enabled) loaded with their preferred white-noise tracks
- Headphones that comply with our school expectations (e.g., discreet, wired)

If you need support choosing a suitable device, we are happy to advise.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's sensory needs further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

*B Morrison*

***Mrs B Morrison***  
***Assistant Principal/SENDCo Nottingham Academy***  
***Greenwood Academies Trust***  
*Greenwood Road, Nottingham, NG3 7EB*  
*Telephone: 0115 748 3380*