Painsley Catholic College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh - BA (Hons), PGCE

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Friday, 6th February 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Mobile Phone Use During the School Day**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of our decision to implement a complete mobile phone ban during the college day, in line with the latest guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). This guidance advises schools to restrict mobile phone use to ensure that every pupil can learn in a calm, focused and safe environment. We have always restricted the use of mobile phones during the college day, implementing a confiscation if phones are visible or in use. However, we are aware that many students may still access their phones or continue to receive messages and notifications.

Over the past few years, mobile phones have become a significant source of distraction in schools across the country. While these devices have clear benefits for communication and safety outside of school hours, their use during the day can negatively affect learning, wellbeing and social interaction. The DfE's research highlights several key concerns that mirror our own experiences:

- Disruption to learning: Notifications, social media and messaging can interrupt lessons and reduce pupils' ability to concentrate.
- Safeguarding and wellbeing: Mobile phones can facilitate cyberbullying, inappropriate online behaviour and overexposure to social media pressures.
- Social development: Break and lunchtimes are valuable opportunities for pupils to build friendships and develop interpersonal skills — something that is impeded when phones dominate their time.

In response, and in line with best practice recommended by the DfE, the college will require all pupils to keep mobile phones **switched off** and **stored in their bags** for the duration of the college day. Phones will be required to be switched off as they enter the college premises and may only be accessed once pupils have left the college premises.

We understand that many parents use mobile phones to communicate with their children before and after school. This will, of course, still be possible. In the event of an emergency during the day, parents can contact the main college office and we will ensure your son/daughter receives any urgent messages promptly. Equally, we will be reminding all students of the expectations should they need to contact home throughout the college day. Should a mobile phone (or Smartwatch/air pods) be visible during the day, they will be confiscated and require a parent/carer to collect during office hours.

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We believe this policy will help foster a more focused learning environment, improve pupils' wellbeing and strengthen our college community. We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us implement this change effectively.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's Pastoral Lead.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely

R. A. Waugh

Mrs R Waugh