

UPDATE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS: CHILDREN'S WELLBEING AND SCHOOLS BILL - SMARTPHONES IN SCHOOLS. 01.05.26

What changed last week?

- In parliamentary debates on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill the Government confirmed the Mobile Phones in Schools guidance (Feb 2026), monitored by Ofsted from 1 April 2026, is now statutory.
- Ministers confirmed the removal of Not Seen Not Heard (NSNH) from the case studies attached to the guidance, and committed to updating the guidance further by September 2027 if evidence gathered through surveys, data collection and engagement with key Stakeholders deems it necessary.

"We are categorically crystal clear there is no access to phones at any point during the school day... We have removed from the guidance we have published any reference to any kind of "not seen not heard" policy in the case studies."

Minister for Early Education, Olivia Bailey- [watch here](#)

"It is an important message for head teachers, if they feel they need it, to be able to say, 'Look, this guidance and what it expects from schools is statutory'."

Minister for Skills, the Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Malvern

With access to smartphones now prohibited, schools have a choice of 2 options to have in place/ be working towards before next Ofsted inspection:

1. Prohibit smartphones entirely from the school premises: choice to allow trackers or brick phones for contact on school journey.
2. Smartphones allowed on site: choice to collect and store smartphones during the school day, or provide locked pouches for every student to store their smartphones in.

'Brick phones only': the low-cost policy that is simplest for schools, empowering for parents, and best for childhood.

Hundreds of schools are already implementing this gold standard policy and have seen immediate benefits during the school day and on the school commute. They also report a huge rise in the number of parents choosing to delay giving their children smartphones in the first place.

Join the Generation Focus webinar at 4.30pm, Monday 18th May.
To sign up and receive the Zoom link, click [here](#).