



Friday 23 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you well as we are now several weeks into the new Spring Term. I am writing with some important information about safeguarding.

Subject Evening feedback

Thank you to those parents who have already attended your child's Subject Evenings and provided feedback, which we invite all parents to do. It is wonderful to hear from you how happy and safe your child/children feel at NLS and great to speak to so many of you during the course of these events.

Mobile Phones in Schools: update

This week, updated guidance was published by the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the use of mobile phones by students during the school day. As a school we welcome this, we have been awaiting further clarity from the DfE for some time before revisiting our policy.

Additionally, there has been much discussion around the use of social media being banned for children under the age of 16. This was strengthened this week with the House of Lords voting in support of a ban.

We therefore feel that we are now in a position to act on the guidance issued this week. The DfE now expects schools to have a policy in place which ensures that students do not have access to their mobile phones at any point during the school day, and that *"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only."* This is primarily to support students' learning, wellbeing and behaviour, and to promote a calm, focused and safe school environment.

Whilst our school currently operates a clear policy on mobile phone use which forms part of our Behaviour and Engagement policy, the increased clarity for schools from the DfE enables us to strengthen our policy in line with the government's position. Having spoken to many parents who have anecdotally shared their views with us, we would now like to gain the views of our parents and students more formally in consideration of our next steps.

The DfE recognises that schools are best placed to decide how to implement a mobile phone-free environment, and that schools have a degree of flexibility to determine the most appropriate arrangements for their school. To this end, we will be asking students and parents for their views on these changes. A feedback form to do this will be shared with you before the end of this half term.

To give parents and carers an early indication of our timeframe, schools are expected to be compliant with this new guidance by May Half Term. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be asking for parent and student feedback, and we therefore aim to implement changes to our existing policy no later than May Half Term. This will enable our current students and parents to adapt to any changes in advance of the Autumn term in September, as well as the students in year 6 who we will be welcoming to our school community in readiness for year 7.

I will write to you again soon providing information on how you can share your thoughts. Information contained within this letter will be shared with students in all year groups via our CORE

communications on Monday. Below are some useful links to our existing Behaviour and Engagement policy, along with the publication shared by the DfE this week.

[Gov.uk Website Guidance Mobile Phones in Schools](#)

[NLS Behaviour and Engagement Policy](#)

Student safety whilst travelling to/from school

The majority of our students walk or cycle independently, and these journeys are an important part of developing responsibility and independence. However, busy roads, changing weather conditions and varying traffic levels mean that it is important that students remain alert and follow basic road safety guidance at all times.

For students who cycle to school, we would also ask that you remind your child to check that their bike is well maintained and roadworthy, that they wear a helmet and consider high-visibility clothing, and that they understand the importance of cycling safely, courteously and in line with road rules

We also encourage you to speak with your child about personal safety, including being aware of unfamiliar situations, staying with friends where possible, and knowing what to do if they feel unsafe or need help on their journey.

General Safeguarding Support: signposting for families and young people

By way of reminder for parents and carers, we have a range of information and guidance available on our website on various Safeguarding related topics. This includes general Safeguarding advice including the names of our Safeguarding Team [North Leamington School - Safeguarding](#), Family Support, [North Leamington School - Family Support](#), Online Safety bulletins as well as support with children's Mental Health [North Leamington School - Mental Health](#). We also run a range of parent workshops, the most recent being on the topic of 'Sleep' and 'Understanding your Teen.' Information on this and more can be found here: [North Leamington School - Family Support](#)

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that we are collectively contributing positively to our students' understanding of safety and keep us informed of any concerns you may have. Have a wonderful weekend, when it arrives.

Helen Jones
Deputy Headteacher