

Combe Pafford School



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

**Re: Anti- Bullying Week**

This letter is to inform you that Combe Pafford will be participating in Anti-Bullying Week, which will take place next week, from **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. This year's theme is "**Power for Good**," and it is coordinated by the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#).

Throughout the week, we will be empowering our students to use their collective "Power for Good" with our specific focus being for them to **Be the Difference** in speaking out against bullying and build a culture of kindness and respect. All students will participate in age-appropriate activities, assemblies, and discussions to help them understand what bullying is, the different forms it can take, and what they can do to help stop it.

Our activities will include:

**Odd Socks Day:** To kick off the week, on **Monday, November 10**, we will be celebrating Odd Socks Day, but not just for one day, we will be asking this to be continued across the week, as we celebrate difference. We encourage all students and staff to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes each of us unique. This is a fun and simple way to express our individuality and reinforce the message that we are all different and that is something to be celebrated.

**In-class learning:** Teachers will be delivering lessons and activities focused on the "Power for Good; Be the difference" theme. This includes exploring how to safely speak up when they see bullying, both face-to-face and online, and how to support one another.

**School-wide discussions:** We will be revisiting our school's anti-bullying charter and procedures to ensure all students are aware of how to report bullying and the steps the school takes to resolve incidents.

### **Non-Uniform day on Friday 14th November for Children in Need.**

#### Addressing online unkindness and its impact

We would also like to use this opportunity to address a growing national concern that we are seeing more of at Combe Pafford: online unkindness that occurs outside of school hours. Unfortunately, this can escalate into bullying via mobile phones and other devices. When these issues come into school, they can have a significant impact on the learning and well-being of those involved and cause wider disruption as tensions spill over.

As a school, we are always looking to enhance our support for pupils through our curriculum and additionally through individual interventions with key adults. We also understand that tackling online issues is most effective when families and the school work together.

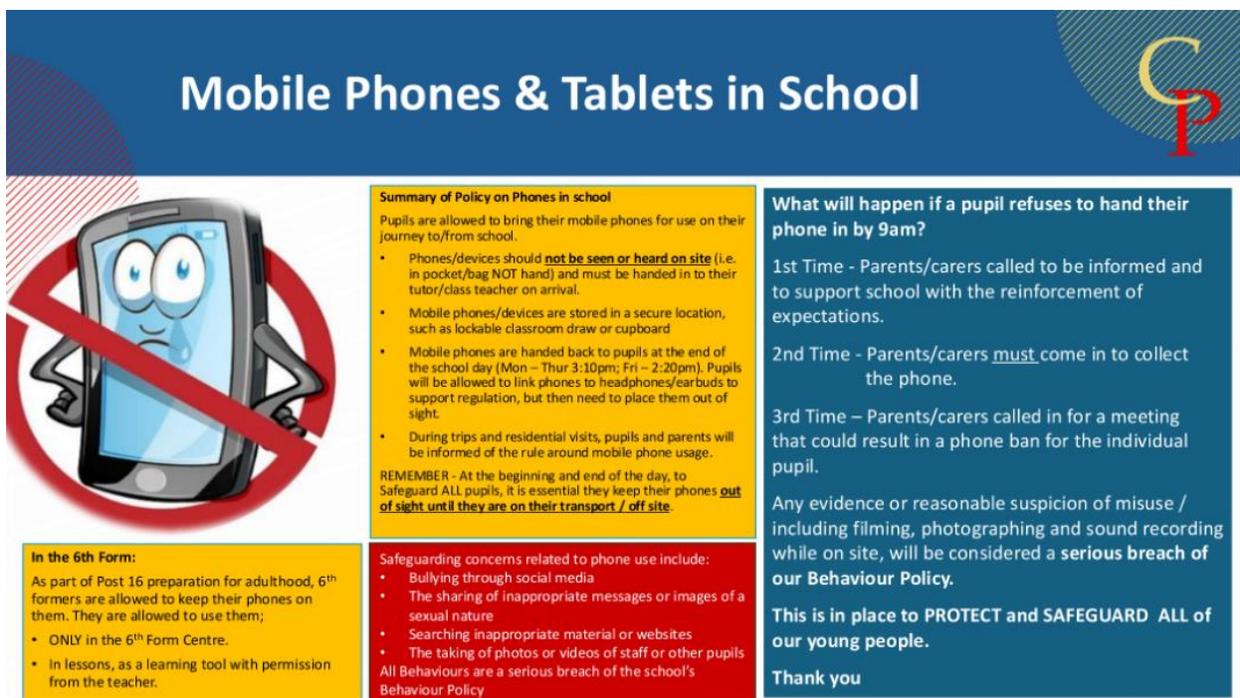
#### Resources to support you at home

To assist you with these challenges, we will be sharing a number of resources with you in the coming weeks to help you support your children at home. In the meantime, here are some useful resources and strategies for having conversations with your children about online safety:

- **Set expectations for online behaviour:** Just as with offline behaviour, it is important to have clear rules about how your child should interact with others online. This can include guidance on what is appropriate to share and how to respond to unkindness.
- **Encourage open communication:** Let your child know they can come to you if they experience or witness something unkind online, without fear of judgment. Acknowledge that the online world is an important part of their social life, and removing their device is not the solution.
- **Keep evidence and report:** Remind your child not to respond to unkind messages. Encourage them to save evidence, such as screenshots of messages or posts, which can be reported to the platform or the school if necessary.
- **Use online safety resources:**

- Internet Matters ([www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)): Provides resources and advice for parents on how to keep children safe online.
- NSPCC ([www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)): Their "Share Aware" campaign offers information on popular social media sites and apps.
- Childline ([www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)): Offers free and confidential support for children on a wide range of issues, including online bullying.

As you are aware, we do have a No Phone policy in school, though we do allow pupils to bring them with them on transport to support regulation on their journey in and out of school. Please see the attached flyer as it summarises our expectations in relation to mobile phone policy in school.



**Mobile Phones & Tablets in School**

**Summary of Policy on Phones in school**  
Pupils are allowed to bring their mobile phones for use on their journey to/from school.

- Phones/devices should **not be seen or heard on site** (i.e. in pocket/bag NOT hand) and must be handed in to their tutor/class teacher on arrival.
- Mobile phones/devices are stored in a secure location, such as lockable classroom draw or cupboard
- Mobile phones are handed back to pupils at the end of the school day (Mon – Thur 3:10pm; Fri – 2:20pm). Pupils will be allowed to link phones to headphones/earbuds to support regulation, but then need to place them out of sight.
- During trips and residential visits, pupils and parents will be informed of the rule around mobile phone usage.

**REMEMBER** - At the beginning and end of the day, to Safeguard ALL pupils, it is essential they keep their phones **out of sight until they are on their transport / off site**

**What will happen if a pupil refuses to hand their phone in by 9am?**

1st Time - Parents/carers called to be informed and to support school with the reinforcement of expectations.

2nd Time - Parents/carers **must** come in to collect the phone.

3rd Time – Parents/carers called in for a meeting that could result in a phone ban for the individual pupil.

Any evidence or reasonable suspicion of misuse / including filming, photographing and sound recording while on site, will be considered a **serious breach of our Behaviour Policy**.

**This is in place to PROTECT and SAFEGUARD ALL of our young people.**

**Thank you**

**In the 6th Form:**  
As part of Post 16 preparation for adulthood, 6<sup>th</sup> formers are allowed to keep their phones on them. They are allowed to use them;

- ONLY in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre.
- In lessons, as a learning tool with permission from the teacher.

**Safeguarding concerns related to phone use include:**

- Bullying through social media
- The sharing of inappropriate messages or images of a sexual nature
- Searching inappropriate material or websites
- The taking of photos or videos of staff or other pupils

All Behaviours are a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe, happy, and inclusive environment for all our pupils. By working together, we can ensure our children are well-equipped to navigate both the online and offline worlds safely and respectfully.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Calandro

**Rachel Calandro**  
**Deputy Head**