



**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**

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Lord Bailey of Paddington

By email: contactholmemb@parliament.uk

11 March 2025

Dear Shaun,

I am writing to follow up on the question you raised during the recent Lords Oral Question on 6th March 2025 regarding any engagement the Department for Education has had with young people about their use of mobile phones in schools.

To inform the development of the [Mobile phones in schools](#) guidance, published in 2024, officials met with a group of young people from the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition. The discussion focused on understanding how the young people used their mobile phones as part of their education, the reasons they would require using their mobile phones during the school day, and the benefits and challenges of banning mobile phones in schools.

The young people expressed several concerns about the challenges of banning mobile phones, such as risk to personal safety outside of school, particularly for vulnerable groups like young carers, limited potential for learning through digital tools and educational apps, and the need to use mobile phones for medical reasons.

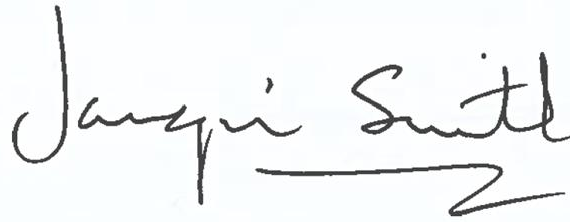
Some of the benefits of prohibiting mobile phones that were outlined by the young people included reduction of cyber bullying, improved focus and concentration, positive impact on mental wellbeing, and better communication skills.

Prior to the publication of the Mobile phones in schools guidance, we know from the Department's [School and college voice survey \(December 2023\)](#) that at least 97% of secondary schools had at least some restriction on mobile phones in place.

The Department's [Parent, pupil and learner voice survey \(December 2023\)](#) found that the majority of pupils (62%) said that they can bring their mobile phone to school but cannot use it. A small minority (16%) said they can use a mobile phone in lessons with permission, and very few (9%) said that they can use a mobile phone at break and lunch.

Thank you for your important question. I will deposit a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jacqui Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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