



20 December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we are coming to the end to 2024, the school term will be ending. I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to inform you of an important decision regarding our school's policy on mobile phone use. After careful consideration, decisions with our trust, staff, and reviewing incidents that have recently arisen, we have decided follow the Department of Education guidance and the trust's policy and the implement a **ban on mobile phones during school hours**, effective from 6th January 2025.

The decision to ban mobile phones was made with the best interests of our students in mind. We believe that eliminating mobile phones from the classroom will help create a more focused and productive learning environment, free from distractions. With the increasing use of phones for non-educational purposes, such as texting, social media, and gaming, students have been finding it increasingly difficult to stay focused on their lessons and engage fully in classroom activities.

Moreover, mobile phones can contribute to other challenges, such as peer pressure, particularly through social media interactions. By removing phones from the school day, we aim to reduce these pressures and ensure that students can interact with each other in a healthy and supportive environment.

While we understand that mobile phones can be useful in certain situations, we encourage students to hand their phones into staff when they arrive on site in the mornings. We have a lockable cupboard and students will be given a wallet to put their phones in. At the end of the school day their phones will be handed back to them for the journey home. In case of emergencies or if a student needs to contact a parent, the school office will remain available for phone calls.

For students that board there is a new protocol in place which will allow pupils to use their phones at agreed times in boarding.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we strive to maintain a focused, safe, and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please feel free to contact the school administration.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping to create a positive educational experience for your child.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and see you all in the New Year.

Regards,

Antony Clements
Headteacher