

Date:

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Use of Student's Mobile Phones in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

As you will know, students had been allowed to bring in a mobile phone for emergency situations. This was on the understanding that pupils will behave sensibly with this privilege.

There have, however, been a number incidents across our Secondary Dept. where this has not been the case. Over the last year, the use of mobile phones has caused both a disruption to lessons and learning – by calling, using Facebook, texting, taking photographs in and around the school, and the playing of music (e.g. in the classroom). Pupils have also caused disruption by the use of games machines (PSPs, Game Boys) I Pads and MP3 Players (inc. I-Pods) to play loud music, make (loud) sounds and/or take photographs around the school. If mobile phones or other mobile devices are seen or do cause disruption in school, they will be confiscated and handed into the Senior Leadership Team for the rest of the day (or week). These items would not be allowed to return into school again.

All of our pupils have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and as such are not able to give consent on their own. Many of our pupils and families have particular reasons why the young people cannot be involved in photographs. To avoid any confusion over this we have a blanket ban on any pupils taking photos on their own devices as we cannot control what happens to those images.

Pupils should not bring their phones into school. There is no need for students to need to use their own phones as the school switchboard 01227 464316 can connect you to all classrooms and staff mobile phones, if the group is off-site. If your son/daughter needs to contact you during the day they need only ask the class staff and they will be allowed to speak to you via the classroom telephone. Rest assured you/your child will be notified by the St. Nicholas staff if an emergency arises. **Mobile devices are not allowed into school, without written permission by the class teacher e.g. via the home-contact book. If disruption is caused, permission will be withdrawn.**

If we need to use mobile phones or mobile/tablet devices, as part of a curriculum session (ICT or life skills-based) or a behaviour support programme; we will contact you in advance, requesting that a particular exception be made for learning or reward purposes.

We need your support with this matter as we wish to avoid the potential conflict of a confiscation which will occur when a mobile phone is seen in school. Please return the form below to confirm receipt of this policy on students' use of mobile phones/mobile devices.

*If you have a particular need for your child to have a phone with them and wish to discuss this with us please contact **me** via the phone, letter or home-contact book.*

Yours sincerely

Stephen King
Deputy Headteacher

I have received the school's policy statement regarding pupils' use of mobile phones and mobile devices. I understand that my child is not allowed to bring their phone into school and that it will be confiscated from them, if it is seen. I understand that if my child causes disruption with any other personal mobile device it will be confiscated and not allowed in school again.

Child's Name: Class:

Parent/Carer signature: Date:

I understand that I am not to bring my mobile phone into school and I will leave it at home.

Pupil signature: Date:

Please return to **Stephen King**.

Agreed by Chairperson's Action on 4 May 2021