



Friday 2nd July

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mobile phones

I am writing to confirm a slight change in the school's position regarding mobile phones. This change was introduced to all pupils in assemblies this week and will take effect as of Monday 5th July.

From the above date, whilst pupils will still be unable to use their mobile phone under any circumstances whilst on the school site, **we will permit pupils bringing a mobile phone to school, providing that it is switched off and kept in their school bag, for the duration of time that they are on the school site.**

This change brings our school in-line with most other schools in this respect and will enable you as parents/carers the opportunity, should you wish, to be able to make contact with your child on their journey to and from school, which is something that a number of parents/carers have raised with me this year as a concern. I appreciate that there will be many pupils who either do not have a phone or do not wish to bring it to school, given the valuable nature of the item and this is something that is perfectly fine, however, this flexibility gives you as parents/carers the option of your child bring a mobile phone to school if you wish. When your child is in PE, there will be the opportunity for your child to hand over their mobile phone to be locked away during the lesson and handed back to them at the end of the lesson.

In the interests of clarity, there are a few related matters that I will draw to your attention:

- **The school accepts no liability for pupils' mobile phones** if they are brought onto the school site. If a phone is brought onto the school site by a pupil and is either lost, damaged or stolen, this is something that the school will not assume responsibility for, even in the case where a phone has been handed in during a PE lesson.
- **Phones that are either seen or heard on the school site by a member of staff will be confiscated.** They will only be returned to the pupil's parent/carers after 3:15pm on the day of confiscation. Under no circumstances will a confiscated mobile phone be returned to a pupil.
- **This change in position will be reviewed in two weeks.** If I feel that the change in position has not had a detrimental effect on either (a) the staff time required to deal with mobile phone confiscations or (b) issues surrounding road safety outside school, then the position will be adopted in full for the next academic year and beyond. If this is not the case, then sadly, we will need to return to the current system of banning mobile phones in school completely.

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Headteacher: Mr G M Burton BSc/BEd (Hons) NPQH

Having spoken with all pupils this week, I am very confident that they will assume the appropriate level of responsibility that I have asked of them and that they will respect that this change of position, if managed well by them as individuals, will permit them a little more flexibility in terms of mobile phone usage outside school. If you do decide that you will permit your child to bring a phone to school, I would be grateful if you would reinforce the key messages from this letter, before they do so.

If you have any queries in relation to this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope you are all keeping well and I will be in touch before the end of term with some further information regarding the end of term and the beginning of the next academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Burton
Headteacher

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