



PDE / CME

October 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

Further to my letter sent out to you last month about the behaviour policy, I am writing with further information regarding mobile phones.

We are now able to fully implement plans that we have been fine tuning since the spring term! We have purchased special mobile phone cabinets that are now securely in place in each tutor room. As of Monday 30 October 2023, mobile phones will be considered a 'banned item' for all pupils between morning registration and the end of the day.

All pupils have been spoken to in assemblies and were explained the routine about these. All pupils will be allocated a separate compartment in their form room cabinet, and this will be secure until the short form period at the end of the day when pupils will collect their phones. Obviously, we would encourage phones not to be brought to school, however, also realise that those children who rely on buses may have their bus pass on their device.

We are putting every measure in place to ensure that mobile phones are as secure as possible, however we cannot be held liable for any losses. Therefore, please consider talking to your child about whether it is necessary to bring their device to school. Secondly, please try to ensure your child's phone has some sort of tracking mechanism, 'Find my iPhone' and 'Life360' are two such examples.

Where children come to school knowing they are to leave earlier than the usual time due to medical appointments etc, they should report this to pastoral first thing in the morning and arrangements will be made to hold their phones and return them before they leave as appropriate for that case.

Finally, on a more general internet safety theme, there are many benefits of mobile devices, but there are also dangers to draw your attention to. As well as ensuring the safe and sensible use of the various social media apps (virtually all of which have an age rating of 13+, or even 18+), there is also the danger of being contacted by 'strangers' and we'd like to remind parents of the 'stranger danger' work (that will have been done by primary schools), also applies online to all children. We actively encourage parents to check the devices of their children on a regular basis.

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Mr P Dugdale
Deputy Headteacher