



1 August 2017

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to inform you of a change to school policy regarding mobile phones.

Pupils will still be permitted to bring a mobile phone for communication with parents to and from school, but must keep them **switched off** and **out of sight** at all times when on campus. From September 2017, there will be much stronger enforcement for any breach of this rule and for incidents of misuse. School leaders may carry out spot checks to ensure pupils have their mobile phone turned off. They may also search a device if there is good reason to believe there has been an incident of mobile phone misuse on the premises. All other types of internet ready device, such as smart watches, are banned from school.

If this happens	We will
<b>A pupil is found not to have switched off their mobile phone or it is seen or heard on campus.</b>	Confiscate the device and the pupil will be issued with a C5 (one day in isolation). Parents can collect the device at the Friday drop-in by adult only.
<b>The same pupil breaks the rule again.</b>	Confiscate the device and issue the pupil with an exclusion for a fixed period together with mobile phone 'ban'. The pupil's parents will also be invited into school.
<b>An incident of mobile phone misuse at school, for example cyber bullying or taking images or a video.</b>	Confiscate the device and issue the pupil with an exclusion for a fixed period together with mobile phone ban. The pupil's parents will be invited into school.
<b>A serious incident of mobile phone misuse at school, for example repeated cyber bullying or taking images or a video and then, without consent, sharing it online</b>	Confiscate the device and issue the pupil with an initial exclusion for a fixed period, whilst consideration is given about whether or not the incident merits <b>permanent exclusion</b> .

This action is a direct consequence of large numbers of pupils having access to a smart phone with a 3G/4G connection at school. Smart phones are causing pupils to be distracted from learning, which in turn affects their progress. In addition, the vast amount of time taken to deal with an ever-increasing number of problems to do with the inappropriate use of these smart devices, often outside school hours, is diverting staff away from critical work in school.



When undertaking this review, school governors considered a ban on smart phones, but we felt many parents would want their child to carry a mobile phone for communication in an emergency when travelling to and from school. Hence, mobile phones have not been banned yet. However, a failure by a substantial number of pupils to adhere to this new policy will result in serious consideration being given to a complete ban on mobile phones.

During the autumn, we shall provide an education programme for pupils and parents, which addresses safe use of social media and information on age restrictions for apps. Incidents of misuse outside of school hours should, of course, be dealt with by parents.

For more information on the new mobile phone policy, please go to our website. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



JC Weaver  
Headteacher

