

July 2023

Dear Families,

We are writing to inform you about a change to our mobile phone policy for students in school from the start of the next academic year.

As a school, we acknowledge that mobile phones are an important part of modern life. They link students with friends and family and provide an important safety measure for students to be able to contact their parents after school hours.

However, in school, mobile phones are often a distraction and cause students' learning to be diminished. The use of mobile phones in lessons or phones going off in lessons is an obvious and problematic distraction. Research shows that the presence of a mobile phone in the same room as you are working can reduce productivity by 20%. This is even true in some cases when the phone is switched off. Alongside this, mobile phones pose a concerning safeguarding risk to both staff and students in the school. Having a camera on hand in changing rooms, toilets and classrooms is not safe and we cannot allow this to continue.

For these reasons, students will no longer be allowed to carry a phone in school in their bag or pocket. The phone should be placed safely in a locked locker first thing in the morning and stored there throughout the day. It can then be collected from the locker at the end of the day.

From our return in August, if a student is found to have a phone on their person during the school day whether it is being used or not, it will be confiscated and kept locked in reception until the end of the week. A parent or carer will need to collect this on the last day of the week from reception.

Before the end of term, students will be asked to check that they have a working locker key so that they can store their phone safely. Please speak to your child about whether they need a new locker key and pay for this on parent pay so that they are fully equipped for the start of the new year.

If any student fails to bring a locker key next year, provision will be made for them to be able to hand in and safely store their phone in school without any sanction.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Simon Gayle
Senior Vice Principal