

25th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

On 30th June, I sent information out in the Newsletter, to share that we would not be allowing mobile phones on site from September, and I echoed this again in my 'Welcome Back to School' letter on 4/9/23.

There are a number of reasons for implementing this measure, to safeguard our children:

- Children have filmed other pupils on the way to/from school.
- Children have stolen phones on the way to/from school.
- Children have damaged each other's phones on the way to/from school.
- Children have been communicating with pupils from other schools and attempting to respond to Snap Chat messages within a 'time frame' in lessons.
- Children are making videos in their uniform which have been shared on social media.
- It takes staff away from teaching when they need to spend time solving disagreements between pupils caused by interactions in messaging groups, on WhatsApp, Snap Chat and Instagram.

The above reasons affect children's mental health, well-being and safety.

Staff have already spent time this term dealing with incidents online that have caused upset outside of school.

Regular updates and guides about age restrictions and recommended sites to support parental controls have been emailed out to support you to keep your children safe online.

Unfortunately, despite lessons in school and clear messages from the police about appropriate messaging and safe internet use, some children do not follow through with the advice that is shared. Please support our safe-guarding messages by monitoring what apps are on your child's phone and talking to them about appropriate/safe use.

If children are found with phones in school, they will be collected by a member of staff and stored safely until the end of the day. Parents are then requested to collect the device from the school office as we are unable to return them to the children because it would breach our school policy.

If you are concerned about your child walking home without their phone, I hope that you will be able to arrange an adult to collect them from school, as per previous years. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support with this matter.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Rowett
Headteacher

