



28th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and ALL Students,

### **CHANGES TO THE USE OF MOBILE PHONE & ACCESSORIES IN SCHOOL**

Following the guidance recently released by the Department for Education '**prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day**', I am taking this opportunity to highlight the changes we are making to ensure a consistent, supportive and fair approach.

In the aforementioned guidance it clearly states that '**schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, break times and lunchtime.**'

#### ***What does the National research show?***

Up to **40%** of children have inappropriately used a mobile device during lesson time. This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning.

#### **Screen time can displace positive activities.**

Socialising, exercise, and good sleep are positive influences on wellbeing. All these can be displaced by screen time. By prohibiting the use of mobile phones during break and lunchtimes at school as well as in lessons, more time for socialising and exercise can be created during the school day.

#### **One in five children have experienced bullying online.**

Data from the Office of National Statistics (2020) suggests that one in five children (19%) aged 10-15 experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they experienced at least some of it at school or during school time.

#### **Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression.**

By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

For these reasons we are banning the use of Mobile Phones and accessories (headphones etc.) whilst on school site, at all points during the school day, including break and lunch-time.

### **NEVER USED, SEEN OR HEARD**

#### **Next Steps**

Monday 4th March 2024 - students will be informed of these changes through assemblies and Form Tutors

Tuesday 5th March 2024 - daily reminders to students about the ban on mobile devices

**Monday 11th March 2024 - Ban on Mobile Phones and Accessories implemented**

[www.ktc-tkat.org](http://www.ktc-tkat.org)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if my child is seen on site using their phone or accessories during the school day?

Staff will request that students hand their device(s) in, to be placed in a labelled bag and stored in a secure locker in the Front Office. The students name and items confiscated will be written on a log and when the item(s) are collected, they are signed for. Parents/Carers will be informed of the confiscation via an Arbor In-App Message/Email.

- **1st Offence - PHONE CONFISCATED**  
Students collect item(s) at the end of the day and sign the log to say they have collected it.
- **2nd Offence - PHONE CONFISCATED + C3 - 30 Minute After School Detention is Issued.**  
Parents/Carers are requested to collect the item(s) at the end of the day and sign the log to say they have collected it.  
**If parents/carers are unable to collect the item (s) they will be kept securely on site.**
- **Further Offences - PHONE CONFISCATED + C3 - 30 Minute After School Detention is Issued.**  
Parents/Carers are requested to **ATTEND A MEETING** and collect the item at the end of the day and sign the log to say they have collected it.

### What if my child refuses to Comply with Confiscation?

Students may be placed in the Reflection Room (RR) for the remainder of the day followed by a 1-hour detention **at the end of the day**. As per the RR Rules, Mobile Devices **MUST** be handed to the Room Manager on entry.

The Student collects the Mobile Phone at the **end of the day (after detention)**.

Further sanctions will follow if the student continues to be defiant. These sanctions may include **Suspension** for failure to comply with School Rules and Defiance.

### Can my child bring their mobile phone devices and accessories etc. to school?

Yes of course, we ask that they are switched off and out of sight during the school day and when on site.

REMINDER - Students who bring these devices into school do so entirely at their own risk.

### What happens if I need to speak to my child during the school day?

In the rare case of an emergency, please contact the School Office on 020 8300 7112

### Can devices be used during breaks/lunches?

No. We want to actively encourage productive social skills and behaviours.

To ensure a smooth transition we would appreciate your support in communicating these changes with your child and expressing the importance of these changes, as well as the many benefits to not just their academic progress but, also their personal well-being and social development.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms E Wride

**Head of School**