



BRUNE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Use of Mobile Devices at Brune Park Community School

We are a school that values and seeks to promote effective learning approaches and recognise the significant role that technology can play in helping us to achieve this. It was for this reason that we worked carefully to agree a policy that enables the use of mobile devices and other technology as a learning resource **within** lessons at the discretion of the teacher. It is our view that when this is used effectively, it is hugely beneficial and supports engagement in meaningful learning.

We recognise, however, that the advancement of modern technology, in particular the prevalence of social media, brings new challenges and potential dangers, the negative impact of which schools work hard to address. There is currently much debate amongst politicians and the media about banning mobile phones in schools. In fact, some schools have actually gone as far as to ban students completely from being able to bring them into school at all. Many experts are linking depression and adolescent mental health issues to continuous use of mobile phones and, in particular, the pressures created by social media. We take our role as educators in safeguarding and the appropriate use of technology, very seriously. We believe strongly that it is through raising awareness and education, that risks can be explored with our students so that they are better able to understand and self-regulate as informed young people in an increasingly complex technological world.

We have an absolute responsibility to promote the ethos and expectations of our school community. At times, mobile phone use can cause tension as we work to ensure an orderly, respectful and calm environment around the school site.

It is now timely for us to remind everyone of the school policy on the use of mobile devices – so that there is clarity about when it is acceptable to use a mobile device and when it is not.

From September 2018, all mobile devices need to be turned off and put into school bags before entering the school site. They must remain in bags until students leave the school site at the end of the day. Mobile devices and earphones will be confiscated if seen by a member of staff during the school day. There will be times when a teacher asks students to use their mobile phone for planned activity during a lesson. Mobile phones will only be seen during school time at the request of a class teacher when the phone will be used for leaning purposes.

We will be working with students through Tutor Time and in Assemblies to remind them of the school's policy so the students are fully prepared for the policy being clearly followed.

I have included a link to a clip that parent/carers may be interested in form a recent Panorama programme. It explores the psychology employed by social media companies that make various Apps additive to young people.

Smartphones: The Dark Side; www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0b9dzb6 via @bbcplayer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Brune Park in helping us to promote and embed our values and expectations.

Yours sincerely



Mike Jones
Associate Headteacher

Quick Guide

- Mobile phones are turned off and stored in your school bag all day
- There may be times when your teacher asks you to use your phone to support learning
- Any mobile phones or headphones seen in the school will be confiscated.
- If you have your mobile device confiscated, it will be held securely in the HUB.
- You will need to collect your phone from the HUB at the end of the school day.
- If your mobile phone is confiscated more than once, your parent/carer will have to come into the school and collect the phone and have a conversation with a member of the School Leadership Team. A phone call home will be made by a member of the Year Team to arrange a time for collection of the phone.