



## BRUNE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

### **Reminder of mobile phone policy and our 'proud to be' uniform expectations**

As we approach the drier weather (fingers crossed) and the longer, lighter days, it is timely for us to remind everyone of the school policy on the use of mobile devices and our uniform expectations here at Brune Park. This will enable a continued understanding about when it is acceptable to use a mobile device and when it is not during the school day and also to remind students of our 'proud to be' uniform expectations, meaning our young people make the correct decisions around these school-wide strategies.

#### **Mobile Phones**

As mentioned in a previous communication, we recognise 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. 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.

At Brune Park School, 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 may however, be times when a teacher asks students to use their mobile phone for learning purposes (this could include research tasks, use of the phone for quiz apps such as Kahoot for example). The teacher has sole charge of when students can use a mobile device during a lesson, all students are clear of these expectations. Should a mobile phone be confiscated, it will be held safely in the HUB for the student to collect at the end of the day. Should repeat confiscations occur, parents/carers will be asked to make an appointment to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team in order to collect the phone and work through strategies to support the student moving forward.

Please see below for a 'Quick Guide' to our mobile phone policy:

## 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 in the classroom
- Any mobile phones or headphones seen in 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 school to 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

### **'Proud to be' uniform expectations**

We expect students to wear uniform in full and to wear uniform to reflect their pride at being a Brune Park student. Our new PE kits have been designed and chosen by the students who have also fed back that they like being able to wear plain black trainers or shoes and that they like being able to choose the style of their plain black trousers.

Along with all GFM schools, (and the vast majority of schools nationally), students are required to have a plain coat for school. Hoodies, sweatshirts or tops, other than a school jumper, are not acceptable as a coat alternative. The overwhelming majority of students report back that they feel the uniform requirements are fair and prepares them for future employment. Any item of clothing that is confiscated will be held in the HUB for collection at the end of the day.

We have provided water coolers across the school site for students to fill water bottles for use throughout the day. Students have worked hard with the team at school to minimise our use of plastics and to promote the positive benefits of drinking water throughout the day. We expect students to have their own water bottle with them each day. To coincide with this, and in line with other GFM schools and schools nationally, we are no longer permitting fizzy drinks or chewing gum on the school site.

Students have been instrumental in challenging us to raise chewing gum and fizzy drinks as an issue for our school. Chewing gum is not disposed of appropriately and can be found under desks, chairs and embedded in the carpets and on floors around the school. Bottles of fizzy drinks (often up to 2litre bottles) are brought onto the site with students telling us that they have bought the drink on the way to school (many say their parents are not aware they buy these products). These drinks are cheap and easily available in local shops, they are full of sugar and can make it difficult for students to concentrate and remain focussed. Students want us as a community to be healthier, reduce plastic waste and improve the school environment - chewing gum or drinking fizzy drinks is not in

keeping with these expectations for the school or with students being the best version of themselves at all times.

For full uniform details please visit our website: <https://brunepark.gfmat.org/parents-and-carers/uniform/>

As always, 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. If you have any questions or comments about the information contained in this communication, please do not hesitate to contact the school or make an appointment to come and see one of us.

**The School Leadership Team**