

2nd February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Use of Mobile Phones

I am always cautious about writing to you about use of technology at home, because I recognise that all children are different as are parenting approaches. Some children respond well to additional responsibility, whilst others struggle.

With the above caveat in mind, please can I ask parents and carers to once again increase their vigilance around appropriate use of smart phones and social media. In the last few days, I have had several incidents reported to me of children messaging each other in inappropriate ways whilst at home using Whatsapp, Tik Tok or Instagram.

We ban mobile phone use in school and confiscate if seen, because of the issues of inappropriate use we have previously experienced with these devices. I strongly urge parents and carers to sensibly limit use of smart-phones at home and put in place age-appropriate restrictions on all devices. There are many parent control and safety apps available for devices that can help you achieve this. A recent report by the Children's Commissioner found that 1 in 10 children have accessed pornography before the age of 9. The report also showed that much of the material being consumed by children and young people features violence, which I'm sure you will agree is very worrying.

Please can I also ask for parental support in reducing the number of students taking mobile phones to bed with them. In cases where we find students becoming disengaged from school or their attendance faltering, we are frequently noting children reporting being up (often beyond midnight) using their devices. They then often attend school late and struggle to remain awake. Our children need to be going to bed at a normal hour and free from the temptation of unfiltered internet access.

I understand that in the vast majority of cases these challenges are managed well, but should anyone need help or support around these issues please don't hesitate to contact the school. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely



Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher