



Head Teacher Mr P Lewin

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to ask for support with two issues, which are currently affecting the running of the school.

Shouting/aggressive behaviour towards members of staff

Whilst I am pleased that I work at a school where the overwhelming majority of parents are polite and work with the school in a spirit of mutual respect, there have been a number of incidents recently that have concerned me. Some parents have thought it acceptable to shout or act aggressively to teachers or office staff, either in the playground or over the telephone when communicating with the school about their child. I understand that parents have strong feelings about their children but any concerns should be expressed in a calm and respectful way by both parents and school staff. We also need to be mindful that whilst on school premises we are modelling the behaviour we expect from children and they should not be concerned by the behaviour of some adults.

I wish to make it clear that these incidents are in the minority and I will address them with individual letters to parents/carers if needed, but I would welcome parents support in this regard.

Pupils bringing phones to school

Every year, normally around Christmas, we have a spate of children bringing phones into school, normally so that children can contact parents on the journey to or from school. Our school policy states that we can only accept phones in exceptional circumstances with prior written consent from the headteacher. This is for a number of practical reasons:

- We have over 130 pupils in Years 5 and 6, most of whom have a phone. If only a third of them brought phones into school the organisational implications would be massive resulting in delays to lessons, let alone the insurance risk of holding so many valuable items in school.
- Safeguarding: we want to ensure that no children can take photos/videos/recordings of children in school. A 'no phones policy' helps to ensure this.
- Written consent ensures that requests can only be granted in exceptional circumstance e.g. a special educational need.

I cannot obviously share the reasons why a child may leave a phone in school on some occasions but I ask that parents trust my judgement in this matter and appreciate that the school is trying to be fair to all pupils, whilst ensuring we can fulfil our primary purpose of providing an excellent education for your child.

