

MOBILE PHONE USE IN SCHOOL POLICY AND ADVICE TO CHILDREN

In order to make sure mobile phones are used properly we have put together this leaflet offering some advice

Advice on Safe Use of Mobile Phones

Using your mobile can be really useful but you need to be careful and keep it safe.

- Don't give out your number or friend's numbers to people you don't know.
- Keep your security code or PIN number private.
- If you get texts which upset you, don't reply but keep a record and tell an adult. In serious cases you can report it to the police.
- If you receive a rude or embarrassing image or text about someone don't forward it to others, tell an adult.
- Distributing unpleasant images of other people is wrong and could be illegal. If you receive something like this tell an adult immediately.
- Ask permission before taking a picture of your friends and think before sending it on. Be careful of sending any images of yourself. Once sent you have lost control of it and could become public before you know it.

See Kidsmart at www.kidsmart.org.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk for leaflets and more information on staying safe.

Benefits

- You can use phones in cases of emergency to and from school where you are more vulnerable.
- You may feel more confident knowing you can make contact with someone if in difficulties, although if it is a school issue you must tell a member of staff in school first so we can deal with the incident quickly.
- You can use many of the facilities on your phone to support your learning.

The Potential Disadvantages

- Mobiles are valuable and can be lost or stolen.
- You can be bullied or bully others by text messaging, silent phone calls, social networking sites, images and video.
- Mobiles can be used to communicate inappropriate material.
- Unsuitable people use mobile phones, text messages, social networking sites and images to make inappropriate contact with young people.
- You could hear bad news by phone without the school having the opportunity to support you.

School Policy

- Mobile phones should be kept switched off and handed into the school office each morning and picked up at the end of day.
- In very unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency, parents are requested to go through the school telephone system so we can support you or take you somewhere private.
- If a member of the staff of the school has any suspicion that a mobile phone has unsuitable material stored on it, you will be required to hand over the phone to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from a senior member of staff. In circumstances where there is a suspicion that the material on the mobile may provide evidence relating to a criminal offense the phone will be handed over to the police for further investigation. Parents will need to recover the phone from the police in such circumstances.
- You remain responsible for your property while it is in school and will bear the responsibility of any losses.

We have no desire to ban you from bringing your phone, but you must hand it into the school office on arrival. Your safety and learning are the most important things. If you follow the above policy we will be able to work together.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Mrs D Flanagan
Headteacher