

Tuesday 5th April 2011

Dear Parent / Carer

School policy on mobile phones and music-playing devices

The current school policy on mobile phone and music-playing devices is that students are discouraged from bringing these to school, although it is understood that for safety reasons access to a mobile phone is sensible for use before and after school. Where mobile phones and music-playing devices are seen or heard during the school day, in the first instance they are confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, over the last term increasing numbers of students have been using mobile phones and music-playing devices, sometimes repeatedly, contravening both the school rules and causing disruption to teaching and learning. In addition, inappropriate use of mobile phones can cause unnecessary confrontations between students and staff and on occasion have been the source of incidents of bullying between students, through the use of texting, internet access to social networking sites and the taking of photographs.

Therefore it has become necessary to formalise the school policy on the use of mobile phone and music-playing devices. **From Tuesday 26th April, students will not be allowed to bring a mobile phone or music-playing device to school without having returned the contract proforma, on the reverse of this letter, which you and they have signed.** By doing so both you and the student agree to a number of terms and conditions relating to mobile phone and music-playing device usage.

We are very much looking for a proportionate response to this issue. The Government's current Education Bill is looking to give teachers a legal right to search students, confiscate phones and examine and erase data or files if there is a good reason to do so. These are powers we hope not to have to use should both students and parents/carers adhere to the letter and spirit of the contract. There is no justifiable reason for a mobile phone or music-playing device to be used by students during the school day. Urgent messages can be passed by both parents/carers and students via Student Services should the need arise.

Your support in this matter is appreciated. Only the signed proforma should be returned to Student Services, with this letter and the contract overleaf retained for reference. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours Sincerely

Clive Corbett
Headteacher