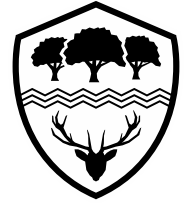


 **Meden School**
Burns Lane
Warsop
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG20 0QN

 +44 (0) 1623 843517
 www.medenschool.co.uk
 office@medenschool.co.uk
 @MedenSchool
 medenschool1

Head Teacher
Jim Smith *BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH*
Executive Head Teacher
Ryan Hawley *BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH*



MEDEN
SCHOOL

12 July 2024

Mobile Phones in School

Dear Parent/Carers

We know and understand that **Mobile Phones**, in particular '**Smart Phones**', are a huge part of modern life and they have become an essential way to manage our lives. In recent years, this has extended to children.

Recent research has started to unveil the extent to which they can impact both the mental health and behaviour of young people. These downward trends are apparent from the introduction of the 'Smart Phone' in 2007 and then subsequent apps and other social media platforms such as 'Instagram' in 2010. As adults we can recognise that this technology is highly addictive for our brains, but for an underdeveloped and emotionally immature brain of a child, the addiction can have a wider impact.

Recently in the news, there has been discussion about the Government setting a complete ban on mobile phones in school because of their impact, not just on mental health, but children's learning and focus in school, as well as for safeguarding reasons and to improve online safety.

We understand that as parents/carers you are keen to ensure that your child is safe on their way to and from school, **but it is prohibited for students to use their phones in school.**

Mobile phones should **not be seen or heard in school**, as per our school policy. They should instead be **switched off** and placed either in their bag or zipped up inside their blazer where they need to remain for the rest of the school day. **If a student contravenes this rule then their phone will be confiscated. The phone will be kept until a parent/ carer comes to collect the phone and your child will also receive an after-school detention.** We want to and need to deter students from bringing, using and relying on their phones during the school day.

Due to their addictive nature it can be hard for children to separate themselves from their phones and many parents may recognise this away from school and at home. On the back of the research some parental groups have mobilised to share the knowledge, but also share tips on how to mitigate the risks and impact of the smartphone. These groups can be found on the websites below:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem>

<https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>

Today's children are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities – but also challenges. By prohibiting mobile phones, we can create safe and calm environment free from distraction so all students can receive the education they deserve.

Kind regards



Mr Simon Morton
Deputy Headteacher