



October 2023

Dear families,

I hope that you are well.

Mobile Phone Policy

I am writing to highlight some changes we are making to our mobile phone policy. Recently the government announced its intention to ban mobile phones from all schools. Ms Keegan (education secretary) stated recently: "Today, one of the biggest issues facing children and teachers is grappling with the impact of smartphones in our schools. The distraction, the disruption, the bullying. We know that teachers are struggling with their impact, and we know that they need support".

Here at The Telford Park School, we recognise that mobile phones are an integral part of our lives now and for young people, they are an object of huge significance. We also know that from a safety perspective, families want their children to bring a phone to school. However, during the school day phones are a distraction and result in pupils not fully focussing on their learning. Therefore, from Tuesday 7th November (after the half term break) mobile phones will be banned from the school site for all pupils from year 7 to year 11. The ban is required to minimise the safeguarding risks to all members of the school community.

If a pupil's mobile phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated and handed back to the pupil at 3.00pm. If the phone is confiscated for a second time, parents or carers will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the school office.

Our first duty as a school is to safeguard your child. You will be aware of instances highlighted in the media of mobile phone misuse in schools and the serious consequences that can arise as a result. All schools are affected and all pupils vulnerable to risk. Safeguarding risks include the taking and sharing of photographs and videos without permission, the inappropriate use of social media, accessing inappropriate materials, sharing personal information and cyber-bullying.

If your child chooses to bring a mobile phone to use on the journey to and from school, then they do so at their own risk. The school will take no responsibility for loss or damage to a mobile phone at school. If brought onto the school site, phones must be switched off and completely out of sight at all times. If there is an emergency where a pupil needs to contact home during the school day, we will allow them to do this via pupil reception.

I would ask that you discuss this important and permanent safeguarding policy change with your child to ensure a smooth transition.

Half Term

A reminder that we will be breaking up for half term on Friday 27th October at the usual time of 3.00pm with all pupils returning on Tuesday 7th November at the usual start time of 8.30am.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rigby

Headteacher



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

