



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware, we have reflected upon the use of mobile phones by students over the last year. We made the decision in September 2018 to give students the responsibility to use phones sensibly at break and lunch in controlled zones. Unfortunately, there have been a number of concerns which we will detail which lead us to consider a complete phone ban like many other schools have done.

Firstly, we spend numerous hours of our school day dealing with fall out in and outside school between friendship groups who voice their arguments on social networking. We also have had a rise in incidences where students film each other at break and lunch. This is often harmless but not all students have given permission to be filmed. We do need to be aware that due to certain safeguarding situations, some students must not be filmed or photographed.

Our proposal will be that students can indeed carry a phone but it remains off at the bottom of their bag from the start to the end of the day. They will not be allowed access to this at any point in the school day. If they need to get hold of a parent/carer or vice versa, they would need to use the proper channels currently in place e.g. phoning the school office.

Whilst I appreciate phones can be very beneficial and are part of our modern world, the impact they are having is increasingly becoming detrimental and disrupting our learning environment. Students can still access all our educational resources and Show My Homework after school and at weekends so the benefits remain.

We continue to take E-Safety very seriously and cover this in our curriculum particularly in the IT and computing curriculum as well as in PSHE.

I would welcome parental feedback on this by Monday, 10th December so we can factor your views in when making a final decision. Please email your comments to srogers@willingdonschool.org.uk

As always, thanks for your anticipated support with this matter.

Best wishes,

Ms E. Beer
Headteacher