

13 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mobile Phone Policy, September 2021 – Please read carefully.

Disruption free learning is vital within all schools following the disjointed years since COVID-19 began and undoubtedly the greatest distraction to learning is mobile phones. They undermine the work of teachers and, with academic catch up still required, distractions to learning need to be eradicated now more than ever before. After many years of a mobile phone usage policy in school, we are now restricting the use of mobile phones; **from September 2021 Ken Stimpson Community School will be a mobile phone free school.**

What does this mean?

Mobile phones and headphones/earbuds will not be allowed to be seen or used inside the school premises at any time of the day. We recognise that for safety and wellbeing reasons both students and their families will wish for them to carry a mobile phone to school and therefore mobile phones must be switched off upon arrival and placed into bags or secure coat pockets until they leave school at the end of the day.

Parents/carers wishing to contact their child throughout the day must do this via school reception and not directly to a child's mobile phone. If it is an emergency, this must be clearly stated when contacting reception and staff will ensure the message is relayed to students in a timely and appropriate manner. The same applies for any student wishing to contact a parent/carers during the day.

Post 16 students must also adhere to this policy however, with one exception: Post 16 students may use mobile phones for academic and research purposes within the Post 16 Common Room and Study Room only.

Consequences and Procedures

If students breach these rules, staff will confiscate the mobile phone, place it into a sealed envelope with clear identification of who the phone belongs to and store it in a lockable unit within reception.

1st Confiscation: Students can collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day from the sports foyer where staff will sign phones back to students.

2nd Confiscation: Students can collect their mobile phone at the end of the school day in the same way as a first confiscation however parents will be contacted by Year teams to alert you of this breach of school policy.

3rd Confiscation onwards: If a student reaches a third confiscation, mobile phones will only be released back to a parent/carers between 3.15-4.00pm at whichever day suits the schedule of the parent. Year

teams will then discuss this severe breach of school policy with parents/carers to address this and may look to put additional measures in place.

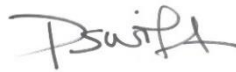
If a student breaches this clear school policy and refuses to comply with the confiscation, they will be placed into our Internal Exclusion Unit until they comply. Persistent refusal to comply with this policy will be sanctioned in accordance with the behaviour policy and Fixed Term Exclusions may be considered.

We hope that everyone can see the vast benefits of removing mobile phone distractions from within school and that you continue to work collaboratively with us moving forward. Thank you for your continued support and we hope that all students have a restful and enjoyable summer holiday once it arrives.

Yours sincerely,



Bryan Erwin
Principal



Paul Swift
Assistant Principal