



CLIFTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Leng

Dear Parent/Carer

Mobile phones

As previously communicated with parents and shared with students in numerous Assemblies and remote briefings we have been carefully considering how mobile phones fit into our vision for learning at Clifton Community School. Undoubtedly, smartphones are a powerful tool, but their use in the classroom can be limited and often detrimental to learning.

Academic studies have shown that despite being an efficient tool, mobile phones generally harm learning and distract students. Young people often overestimate their ability to multitask and may not realise that their phones are distracting them, even when they are not using them. Evidence suggests that the presence of a smartphone, even when idle on a student's desk or in their pocket, can significantly affect memory recall and accuracy. Just thinking about a smartphone is enough to break concentration.

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the Google Survey to gain your view points, 92.8% of respondents supported a stricter policy being implemented with the majority of these being that phones should be switched off and in bags throughout the day, but available for students to use to and from school.

Students are already aware but I wanted to remind all households that our new policy will come into force from **Monday 1st July 2024**.

Our new approach

- Students must keep their mobile phones **invisible** at all times.
- Students mobile phones will be **prohibited** throughout the school premises, including classrooms, hallways, and seated areas during breaks.
- They should be switched off and out of sight whilst at school.
- If your child brings a phone to school, they must be kept out of sight **inside their school bag** - they cannot be simply placed in pockets.

From **Monday 1st July 2024**, any mobile phones seen in school, without an urgent, valid reason, e.g., checking blood sugar levels, will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Should this become a repeating occurrence this will be escalated and phones retained until parents can collect.

We recognise the importance of mobile phones in keeping our students safe and connected with parents and carers in the community. For this reason, we have carefully considered the language used in our new approach. Rather than imposing a complete ban on phones, we have decided that students must keep their phones **invisible** at all times, and keep their mobile phones turned off in their school bags, so they can use them while travelling to and from school.

This is a bold move. The easiest thing to do would be nothing, but we have *high expectations* at Clifton Community School and are not afraid to take decisive action to improve teaching and learning.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Leng
Headteacher

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