

18th January 2019

Dear parent/carer

Re: Inappropriate use of social media/mobile phones

I am writing to you following a number of incidents which have occurred recently regarding the inappropriate use of mobile phones by some pupils in the school. These have included a small group of pupils sharing offensive and distasteful images with others. Also, we have had a small number of incidents where pupils have been persuaded to share inappropriate images of themselves with others. Please be assured that all of the pupils involved have been dealt with appropriately by the school, supported by parents and our police liaison officer.

As a school, we have a strict policy regarding mobile phones, which you will be aware of. Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones into school, but they must be switched off and placed in their bag during the day. We have no intention of changing this policy and we are pleased that, for the majority of the time, nearly all pupils adhere to this policy. We are concerned by these incidents however, which we believe require a measured, yet clear and unambiguous response.

You will be aware that our police liaison officer has addressed issues related to the dangers of social media and inappropriate use of mobile phones with our pupils. This is an integral part of the school's Personal and Social Education programme. These recent incidents suggest that the message has not been understood by all. Our intention therefore is to run a series of assemblies, which will be year group based. Our focus will be on reinforcing the unacceptable use of mobile phones and also the criminal consequences that pupils may open themselves up to if they were to act in the way described above.

This will be a hard hitting message which we hope will be understood by all. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that the message is understood by your child(ren) and ask that you are fully aware of your child(ren)'s use of their phone. In nearly all of our recent incidents, parents were unaware of the 'apps' that their children were using; in some cases the children were below the age limit to access the service.

As a school we believe strongly in the benefits of mobile phones and we do not wish to undermine these. We must also be mindful however of the dangers our young people may be exposed to by the inappropriate use of mobile phones. The actions we intend to carry out will further safeguard our pupils from these dangers. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss or have any concerns related to this matter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Edwards
Headteacher