

Our Ref: RSE/SBR

5 February 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

A real focus for us as a school has been to ensure the very best climate for learning so that students are fully prepared for lessons and any distraction is eliminated.

To support this you may be aware that we have made the decision to ban the use of mobile phones within school because of the negative effect on student learning. Students will be informed the week beginning of **Monday 11th February** with the **policy fully implemented from Monday 25th February**. The decision has not been taken lightly but we feel that given the issues that mobile phones create for us as a school and the latest educational research indicates that this move is in the best interests of our students.

Current research suggests:

98% of schools either do not allow mobile phones on school premises or require them to be handed in at the beginning of the day.

There is growing evidence that the internet and digital gadgets are making it hard for young people to focus and concentrate for sustained periods of time.

Students who spend a lot of time using technology tend to have less in the way of communication skills, self-awareness and emotional intelligence.

Our experience at Ecclesfield School is that mobile phones are increasingly involved in creating anti-social behaviour and inappropriate gatherings of students either before or after the school day. The situation is further complicated by many students and parents seeing it as their "right" to have constant use of a device. Dealing with such issues takes up valuable learning time and the school's time dealing with incidents.

To ensure that the policy is clear, the school website is being updated to reflect how the policy will be implemented, although the basic principles areas are listed below.

Policy

Please note that the term 'phone' in this policy denotes mobile phones, smart watches, iPods, iPads, MP3, MP4 players and any similar portable electronic devices.

1. If a student chooses to take a mobile phone to school they must keep it in their bag, switched off and out of sight at all times. This includes social time (before school, breaks, lunch time and after school).

2. If a student has a mobile phone out in school (including social times) or switched on, a member of staff will confiscate this and hand it in to Student Services where they can collect it at the end of the day. Phones are not allowed to be used on the school site. They may only be switched on and used when outside of the school gates.
3. Mobile phones should be 'off and away' at all times, any phone seen or heard will be confiscated, this includes phones on display in shirt/trouser pockets.
4. If a student needs to make an emergency phone call to contact a Parent/Carer, they should go to see Student Services in room K106
5. If a phone is confiscated it will be recorded as C3 Consequence. The phone will be kept for the rest of the day and returned to the students at the end of the day.
6. If a student's phone is confiscated for a second time or more the phone during the academic year the phone will be kept in Student Services and returned when the Parent/ Carer has come into school to pick this up.
7. Headphones and wireless earphones should not be visible in school and stored in a student's bag. Again, such items will be confiscated and kept in Student Services where students can collect them at the end of the day.

We would ask that you further discuss this with your child and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

R Walkden

R Walkden
Headteacher

R Sutcliffe

R Sutcliffe
Deputy Headteacher