



Tibshelf Community School
Doe Hill Lane
Tibshelf
Alfreton
DE55 5LZ

14th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of our recent consultation on mobile phones and becoming a phone free school. Thank you to all parents and students who took the time to feedback views to us via the consultation process. We received a good response from all groups, with some really useful points to consider. Following this feedback, I have met with senior staff and governors to consider the outcome.

We have taken the decision that Tibshelf Community School will become a phone free school from September 2023. This change in policy will bring our school into line with other schools in the area and ensure that the risks associated with mobile phone use are minimised in our school environment.

Over the last two years, UK data has shown us that bullying and harassment of children, using mobile phones, has doubled. In addition, you will be aware of the significant and growing issues, across the country, around the sharing of internet pornography and the increase in Youth Offending Orders being issued to children for distributing these images.

We have also seen this national picture replicated at Tibshelf School, with an increase of cyberbullying and other problems stemming from the use of social media and online videos.

We acknowledge that mobile phones are an integral part of society, and the majority of students own one. We also understand that, for safety reasons, students may wish to carry a mobile phone whilst travelling to and from school and we want to continue to support this. If your child chooses to bring their mobile phone to school for use before and after school hours, please be aware that we will take no responsibility for loss or damage of the phone.

If a student chooses to bring a mobile phone into school, then the phone must be switched off and placed in the student's bag before they enter the school site. If they are seen with a mobile phone on the school site, at any point throughout the school day, including social times, it will be confiscated and stored in the Focus Room. It will be available to collect at the end of that day. If a student persistently breaches this policy, it will be viewed as defiance and escalation up the behaviour ladder will commence.

I appreciate that you may have questions regarding this policy, and I have included a "Frequently asked questions" document that will address points raised. If you have any questions that you feel we have not answered, please do get in touch with your child's Head of year.

I would like to thank you for your support as we continue to work together to safeguard and education our young people.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lucie Wainwright
Headteacher

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