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### **Information for parents/carers – mobile phone/electronic device use in school**

Dear Parents/carers,

In the autumn term of this school year, we surveyed parental views on our school mobile phone policy, and we also have Student Voice on this too.

As a result, from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, school will be trialling a different model of phone use in school, which will now allow all students on site to use their phone responsibly should they wish, during non-contact time such as morning break and lunchtime. This is a modification of the current position which only allows phone use before and after school.

This trial period will run for 5 weeks, and in the 5<sup>th</sup> week, it will be reviewed and evaluated, before any decision is made on whether or not a new permanent change to the school policy is put in place from September 2017.

As well as a majority of students themselves and parents being in favour, it is the case that school should be preparing students for adult life and educating them about appropriate phone use. To not allow individuals to use their own mobile devices in their own 'free time' such as lunchtime does not realistically replicate the workplace. However, as will be explained in school to students, the success or otherwise of this trial period will be down to the actions of students and their ability to demonstrate responsible use. For example, phone use is not a legitimate reason for arriving late to a lesson, nor should any student take unauthorised images of other members of the school community.

Use in lessons will still be prohibited in general as a rule, although individual staff may at their discretion allow use in specific circumstances for learning purposes. Unauthorised use in the classroom (or outside), will still result in confiscation, and follow up sanctions.

One aspect which we ask you to support please, is to deter your son/daughter from contacting you during the school day, if for example, they feel they have a problem in school. Staff are generally teaching during the school day and pastoral staff cannot respond to individual concerns if they are in the classroom. If a child is feeling unwell for example, they should use the existing procedure already in place in school.

An update on this trial will be provided in July.

Kind regards,

P Howe

Assistant Headteacher