



All Saints Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs A Holleran

3rd July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I want to make you aware of the school's revised Mobile Phone Policy.

Following a number of serious safeguarding issues in school involving mobile phones, Governors have exercised their right to completely ban pupils from bringing mobile phones to school.

Whilst we gladly embrace technology and have invested heavily in it as a school, we also recognise that as with most things in life, a balance needs to be struck.

There are studies showing some very worrying trends:

50% of children own a mobile phone by aged 7yrs

Children spend on average 3½ hours a day online

Over half say they sleep with their mobile phone beside their bed

Researchers found children are engaging less in sporting activities and reporting higher stress levels

44% of children report feeling 'uncomfortable' if they are ever without a phone signal

We owe it to our children to let them have a childhood. As a school, we are very concerned by the unsupervised access to technology so many of our children seem to have. Whilst we have no say in what happens at home, we can ensure that school is the safe haven it needs to be, free from mobile phones and the distraction they present – a detox zone.

I find it very telling that Bill Gates, former CEO of Microsoft did not allow his children to have a mobile phone until they were fourteen. Both he and Steve Jobs, the two biggest figures in the technology industry, seldom let their own children play with the very products they helped to create.

Parents/Carers are of course welcome to contact the school office to enquire about their child or to ask school staff to relay any messages. The overwhelming majority of our children live close to school. Governors do not believe that carrying a mobile phone ensures a child's safety – in fact they consider it to increase the risk of being involved in a road accident (given the distraction it often causes), or being at greater risk of being mugged.

The policy comes into effect as we start the new term on Tuesday 2nd September. You can view it on our website. Hand copies are available on request from the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A. Holleran
Headteacher