



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

15 March 2024

Dear Parent and Carers

Use of Mobile Phones in School

Following new guidance about the use of mobile phones in schools recently released by the Department for Education, we wanted to take the opportunity to remind students, and parents and carers, of our school's expectations regarding the use of mobile phones on the school site.

The use of mobile phones during the school day disrupts the learning environment for all students and unnecessarily diverts teachers' attention away from delivering high-quality teaching and learning. The potential negative impacts of social media on young people's wellbeing is also well documented and a recent survey indicated that 4.5% of students at Parmiter's, and 7% of students across Hertfordshire, have experienced bullying online.

The new guidance states that '**Mobile phones will be banned in schools across England**' and gives schools four potential options for ensuring that mobile phones are not used during the school day. Our current policy is compliant with the new guidance and, therefore, we will not be making any changes at this time. We understand that many students carry mobile phones to communicate with parents and carers while travelling to and from school and we intend to take a measured and practical approach so that this can continue to happen.

Our policy is designed to ensure that our students feel safe in school, can access high-quality education in the absence of disruption and that the safeguarding risks posed by mobile phones and social media are mitigated against.

Our expectations on the use of mobile phones are detailed in our school Behaviour Policy and also outlined below:

- Mobile phones are not to be used on-site between 8.30am and 3.20pm. During this time, phones must be **'powered off'** and **stored in a student's locker or school bag**.
- In the event of necessity, students may use their phone to contact home only with expressed permission of a member of staff and this should take place in an appropriate area - generally, in the foyer of the Bethnal Green entrance (between Mr Baker & Miss Hall's offices) or at Reception.
- Any mobile phone seen during the school day will always be confiscated. The incident will be recorded on the student's record and a detention issued.
- More stringent sanctions may be issued if the phone is being used in a manner that is detrimental to the learning or wellbeing of others.
- Repeat offenders can expect a higher level of sanction and parents/carers required to collect the phone.

Nemo sibi nascitur:

Our values of community, aspiration and opportunity enable every individual to grow and flourish



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The use of headphones/earphones is also not permitted on the school site, unless connected to the student's Chromebook as part of an appropriate educational activity. Headphones/earphones must not be worn whilst moving around the school site.

We strongly advise that expensive mobile phones and headphones/earphones are not brought onto the school site. Staff will not be responsible for trying to locate such items should they go missing.

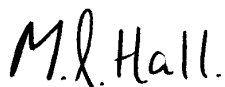
The consequences for not abiding by our expectations are as follows:

- 1st occasion - item returned at the end of the day and a Head of Year detention issued.
- 2nd occasion - item returned at the end of the day and a Full School detention issued.
- 3rd and subsequent occasions - item retained and parents/carers contacted informing them to come to school to collect item. A Senior Leadership detention will also be issued.

The expectations outlined above apply to students in all year groups, including the Sixth Form. The only exception for Sixth Form students is that they may use mobile phones and headphones/earphones in the Sixth Form buildings - Common Room, Old Library, Café 6, Conference Centre and the Sixth Form LRC, as long as they are used in a respectful manner and are mindful of other students. Sixth Form students must not use mobile phones and headphones/earphones anywhere else on site and will be subject to the same consequences should they fall short of our expectations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a clear 'Hall'.

Miss M Hall
Acting Assistant Headteacher