

SAFE AND COURTEOUS USE OF MOBILE PHONES

In upper Key Stage 2, and in some cases in lower year groups, children may begin to have mobile phones. This is of course a parental decision.

When children do have access to phones, it is really important that they know how to use these devices safely and responsibly. Parents should be mindful that mobile phones are no longer just for making calls and sending messages; they are effectively handheld computers that can access a range of sites, social media platforms and services and should therefore be monitored and supervised as such, with appropriate safety settings and parental controls. Within school, at an age-appropriate level, the children are taught about on-line safety including how to keep themselves safe and how to use technology in a positive and responsible way. We hope parents will support us by reinforcing this at home.

If you decide that it is suitable or necessary for your child(ren) to have a mobile phone, the best advice is to talk to them about the responsibility that comes with owning a phone and how it should be used safely and respectfully.

It is a good idea to establish your own family rules around the use of mobile phones and other devices - for example: no mobile phones at the dinner table; no mobile phones before school; no mobile phones in the bedroom; limiting the people your child may call or text; setting a cut-off time in the evening for use of the phone; discussing how you will monitor your child's phone usage and content; putting in place consequences for misuse.

A key message to reinforce is that we are responsible for every message we send and every comment we post. The children should stop to think before they text or post a message and ensure that they are being respectful, truthful and kind.

Before you speak:

THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?

As adults, modelling good mobile phone etiquette is really important; the example and expectations we set are crucial.

As a general rule, children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. We recognise that, in some special circumstances, there may be a valid reason for a child to need to bring a mobile phone to school e.g. as a security measure if a child is walking to/from school on their own. If this is the case, parents must complete a Request for Mobile Phone Permission form, available from the school office. If a phone is subsequently permitted, children are required to hand in their phones on arrival in the morning and collect them on departure.

Attached you will find some documents which may be of use or interest. There are also a number of useful websites where parents can find advice about on-line safety – guidance, protocols, parental controls, safety settings etc

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/family-agreement/>