



South Shropshire Academy Trust

Church Stretton School
Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton,
Shropshire, SY6 6EX

Telephone: 01694 722209
Fax: 01694 722417
Email: office@cssschool.co.uk
www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk
Principal: Mr S Lunt, MA. (Education) BA. Hons.



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



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Dear Parent / Carer,

The use of mobile phones within school

For some time we have been concerned about the use of mobile phones in school. In terms of safeguarding, you are no doubt also aware that there has been an increase nationally in cases of cyber bullying which we have been addressing via whole school assemblies, in ICT and PSHE lessons. Further to this, our recent parental survey identified mobile phones as a significant factor of concern with regard to bullying. In addition we have increasingly found that some students become distracted from their learning in lessons by their mobile phone.

We therefore feel that action is needed to prevent distraction in lessons and to protect the safety of students at all times during the school day.

For this reason, students are not permitted to use phones/electronic equipment at break or lunchtimes or to have them out for any reason during the day.

As a rural school we accept that there may be particular circumstances in which a parent wishes their child to have a mobile phone for their journey to and from school. However, where there may be the need for a student to contact home or vice versa, mobile phones should not be used. If an issue arises during the course of the day then we would ask that the student go to Reception from where a phone call can be made. You can of course contact Reception with an urgent message which will be relayed to your son / daughter.

During tutor time this week, students will be reminded about the use of mobile phones in school. The following reminder will be given:

- Where a mobile phone is brought to school, it is entirely at the student's and parents' own risk. The School accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage of any phone or other mobile device brought into school.
- Mobile phones which are brought into school must be **turned off** (not placed on silent) and stored out of sight. They must remain turned off and out of sight until the student has left the school site at the end of their day.
- If any member of staff sees students with their mobile phone, staff will request the device is turned off and stored out of sight.
- Where students fail to comply with the reasonable request to turn off and put away a phone, the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day and stored securely in Reception for the student to collect.
- Students are not to use mobile phones / mobile devices to listen to music during lessons. Earphones/head phones should not be seen in school.

- If any student refuses to hand over their phone, they will be placed in isolation. Persistent refusal will result in parents being invited in to discuss the issue.

We therefore ask that you discuss the content of this letter with your son/daughter and reinforce the school's expectations.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. J. Parr
Head of School

Ms. A. Moore
Assistant Head of School