



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Parent / Carer,

Happy New Year and I hope you have enjoyed the festive break. As we start a new term at Beverley High School I would like to draw your attention to our new mobile phone policy and the rationale behind the changes. Over the last year we have had an increasing number of incidents involving the misuse of mobile phones. As a school we are also concerned about the impact of phones: on mental health, particularly on anxiety and depression; attention spans; learning and cyber bullying. Research also indicates that the latter is more serious with girls and the 'reported prevalence rates of cyberbullying at age 15 were almost double those for 11-year olds' (Public Health England). It is also believed that 'almost a quarter of young people are so dependent on their smartphones that it becomes like an addiction, suggests research by psychiatrists'(BBC). Our recent surveys also indicate that parents, staff and students are concerned about the impact of mobile phones.

At Beverley High School we want to support parents / carers with educating young people on how to use technology and social media responsibly. Phones are a useful tool, especially where the issue of safety during the journey to and from school is concerned; also, through the use of Edulink, mobile phones provide an effective form of communication between staff and pupils outside of lesson and it provides a platform to share resources for Independent Learning, and finally, the internet can provide useful websites to support learning. However, teachers and students have a right to teach and learn in a school environment which is free from interruption by mobile phones. In addition, we are a tolerant school and believe that it is important to show students how we can adopt a controlled use of mobile phones rather than a blanket ban on their use. We want students to develop social skills and learn how to interact with their peers without their mobile phones. Therefore, our policy aims to provide a framework of good practice for the use of mobile phones.

The main changes are outlined below:

- 1) Mobile devices can only be used during the lunch break 12.35-1.25 and students need to be seated in one of the designated classrooms for their year group or alternatively on one of the benches in the corridor.
- 2) Students are not allowed to walk around school using their phones.



- 3) Mobile devices are not allowed at any other time of the school day and we kindly request that your child walks into school with their phone switched off and at the bottom of their bag.

The use of a phone contrary to this policy will result in the confiscation of the mobile until the end of the day. Further details of the policy can be found on the school's website.

We hope that you will support Beverley High School with the introduction of this new policy which will begin this week and also see this an opportunity to further educate your child / children on how to use mobile devices responsibly.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Laven
Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes

