

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

11 March 2021

Dear Families



Ref: Mobile phones and other internet devices

I am writing to you today to remind you of the school's expectations regarding students' personal mobile phone and other electronic devices.

We accept that some students may be using such devices on the way to and from school.

It is, however, our school's firm policy to request that any such devices are given to the Class Team immediately upon arrival to be given back to the students at the end of the school day. We store such items as securely as possible during the school day, whilst not accepting any liability for loss or damage.

This system is not to inhibit our students' use of the Internet during the day – as you know, we are fully committed to digitalisation of learning and provide each of our students with the suitable technology to access learning.

Equally, if any point in the school day a student requests that they are able to contact their family member, we can support them by allowing them access to the school phones (this is likely to be with staff supervision and only to the numbers you have provided us with).

The reason for not allowing the students to keep or use their personal devices during the school day is related to our statutory safeguarding duties.

Regrettably, over the past few days, we have experienced some difficulties with implementing this safeguarding duty, as students have refused to hand over their devices.

This has been difficult for the students in question, others in the class and also for the staff. I therefore share here the process we will now follow in such situations:

1. Students are encouraged to come to school without phones or other devices
2. If families decide that their child will benefit from having such device with them on their journey to school, they must reiterate our school's expectation of surrendering these upon arrival
3. Staff will do their best to keep all such devices safe, whilst we do not accept liability for any loss or damage
4. If a student refuses to hand over their electronics to the class team, staff will support them to do so for a period of up to 15 min
5. If after that, the situation is not resolved, the family will be called and expected to arrive on site without delay to collect the item and take it home with them.

6. If the student continues to refuse to hand over the item, the family will be asked to take the student home and the learning that day will be home-based/remote. The family will also be asked to ensure that the next morning the student arrives either without such technology or with full acceptance of the school rules and commitment to handing it to the class team.

I realise that for some it is very difficult as technology is now a major part of our lives, but I know you will agree that safeguarding of the children and young people must always come first.

I thank you in advance for your support in this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher