



# The Winstanley School

Widening Horizons | Enabling Excellence

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11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear parent/carer

We are writing to you in response to the latest government guidance around mobile phone usage in schools.

Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion in all school settings. One in three secondary school pupils report that mobile phones are used in most lessons without permission. This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning.

We owe it to our children to do what we can to remove distractions and enable them to be fully present and engaged in the classroom. We also owe it to our pupils to keep them safe at school. One in five pupils have experienced bullying online. By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices.

As a result, from **8th April** we will be following government guidelines and **prohibiting the use of mobile phones on site during the school day (8.35am to 3.05pm)**. We will be updating our behaviour policy, found on the school website, to reflect this before the start date.

Students can keep possession of their mobile phones only on the **condition that they are never used, seen or heard during the school day**. We know some students like to use their mobile phones on their way to and from school, which is still permitted, but we will ensure that phones are switched off when they enter the site and placed at the bottom of their school bag. Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in the following consequences:

- For the first breach of this policy, the device will be confiscated and placed in an envelope in reception ready to be collected at the end of the school day by the student.
- For a second breach of this policy, the device will be confiscated and placed in an envelope in reception ready to be collected at the end of the school day by the parent.
- For a third breach of this policy, students will be prohibited from having these devices on site and may be searched each morning before entering the premises.

As parents and carers, you have an important role in supporting this policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones and we encourage you to reinforce and discuss it at home, including the risks associated with mobile phone use and the benefits of a mobile phone-free environment.



**Head Teacher** . Dave Bennett . **Deputy Head Teacher** . Fiona Le Cras  
**Assistant Heads of School** . Wesley Collins . Nick Rigby . Jason Scrimshire . Pankaj Thacker

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Should you need to contact your child during the school day, you can do so via the school office, and we will get the message to them.


Thank you for your support and understanding in this. It is vital we work together in partnership to ensure that our students get the best experience possible and have the opportunity to shine brighter than they thought they could.

If you have any queries or concerns around this policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Bennett  
Headteacher



Mr J Scrimshire  
Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion and Support)