

# FAQs for Parents

## **Why have you decided to ban mobiles now?**

*We have been increasingly concerned about the issues that mobile phones are presenting in the school. There is increasing evidence of mobile phones being the source of falling outs and bullying on social media; causing disruption to learning in lessons; and as a safeguarding concern with students sharing inappropriate images. There has also been recent research that links excessive mobile phone use to a decline in mental health among young people. This is a national issue, and the Education Secretary recently called for a ban on mobile phones in school. We also know that some local schools have recently banned mobile phones and seen a marked reduction in problems related to mobile phone use.*

## **Why can't my child use their phone during social times?**

*As a school we want to encourage our students to talk to each other and develop friendship groups at break and lunchtime, as opposed to using their mobile phones. We are also concerned about issues around social media and feel a complete ban will be beneficial for students.*

## **Can my child still have a mobile with them so they can contact me when not on school premises?**

*Yes, provided the phone remains turned off and is not seen by staff on the premises.*

## **What if I need to contact my child during the school day?**

*You can contact your child through the school reception. We will make sure any message is passed on. Alternatively, you can leave a message on your child's phone which they can pick up once they have left the premises.*

## **Why are staff allowed to use their mobiles when students are not?**

*There are many things in school that staff can do that students cannot. Staff can use phones to access safeguarding software, award rewards and behaviour sanctions and check and respond to emails.*