

Prospect School

PROSPECT SCHOOL, READING

Cockney Hill, Tilehurst,
Reading, Berkshire RG30 4EX
Tel: 0118 959 0466
Fax: 0118 950 4172

Website: www.prospect.reading.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mr Philip Davies

20th July 2018

Dear Parent /Carer

We wrote to you last year to say we would trial student mobile phone use in school. This trial has now been in place for a year.

As you may be aware, there have been many articles in the press surrounding student use of mobile phones in schools. The research indicates that mobile phones can have a detrimental effect on students' achievement, progress and mental health. Our experience this year is that mobile phones are increasingly involved in creating confrontation between staff and students in school and have been very influential in inappropriate gatherings of students, either during, or after the school day. The situation is further complicated by many students and parents seeing it as their "right" to have constant use of a device. Therefore, to ensure the very best climate for learning, so that students are fully prepared for lessons, and any distraction is eliminated, we have made the decision to ban the use of mobile phones within school to maximise student learning.

Students will be reminded of the changes the first week back in September and given the opportunity to adjust to the new way of working i.e. students seen with mobile phones will be asked to put them away, rather than having their phone confiscated. On Monday 10th September the policy will be fully implemented.

To ensure that the policy is clear, the school website is being updated to reflect how the policy will be implemented, although the basic principles are listed below:

- Mobile phones should be '**off and away**' at all times. Any phone seen or heard will be confiscated; this includes phones on display in shirt pockets.
- Phones that are confiscated will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first instance, although should there be a second occurrence a call will be made home with the requirement for a parent / carer to collect the phone on their child's behalf.
- The restriction is in place at all times while students are on the grounds of the school building and this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds and not accessed until they have left the site.
- Should students wish to use their phone at the end of the day to contact parents with any concerns, or for collection following school-based activities, they are asked to use the main reception area of the school where phones may be used during this time.

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

If you need to contact your child in an emergency during the school day, please ring the school on 01189 590466. If a student urgently needs to contact home, they can go to the Key Stage Hubs.

We would ask that you further discuss this with your child over the summer break and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support in this matter. If you have any further questions regarding this matter then please email me at mpriddey@prospect.reading.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Priddey', written in a cursive style.

M Priddey
Assistant Headteacher

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE