



Ravens Wood School

Ravens Wood School, Oakley Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8HP
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16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Mobile Phone Policy from September 2021

In line with many other schools and best practice, we are making some important changes to our mobile phone policy at Ravens Wood. All students will be told of the new policy via assemblies, ready to learn and regular reminders. Please do read the reasons, guidelines and procedures carefully so that we can all support our students in following the new policy.

In our most recent parent survey, we informed you that we were reviewing our mobile phone policy and asked whether you agreed that mobile phones should be 'off and away' during the school day. 82% of responses agreed or strongly agreed that this should be the case. This aligns with our own thinking as a staff body and consequently we have taken the decision to ban mobile phones from our school site from September.

We do appreciate and understand that mobile phones and technology are now a key part of modern life. Most students own a mobile phone with access to the internet and some carry one for safety reasons to contact home before and after school. However, mobile phones can often lead to several problems in schools. We have noticed a gradual rise in smart-phone related safeguarding incidents; issues that began online and found their way into school.

Here at Ravens Wood, we strongly encourage and support students to develop socially and emotionally. This development is just as important as any academic progress or examination grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can be best done by talking to each other, interacting and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to relying on technology for social interaction.

Ravens Wood fosters a culture of safeguarding and we ensure the very best climate for learning, so that students are fully supported and prepared for lessons. This means reducing distractions and limiting safeguarding risks wherever possible. The decision to ban mobile phones from our school day is fundamentally about ensuring the safety, personal growth and academic progress of our students.

From September, students are allowed to bring mobile phones to and from school to assist with their personal safety whilst travelling. On arrival, Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be expected to hand their mobile phones in to their form tutor where they will be securely stored for the day. Year 11, 12 and 13 are expected to have their mobile phones switched off and away for the duration of the school day. For more details please refer to the updated mobile phone policy on the school website:

<https://www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk/about-us/pastoral-care/> and a video explaining the new mobile phone policy and how mobile phones will be collected and stored safely during the school day.

Please also find attached a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document that provides answers to further queries that you may have. The new policy will come into effect from Wednesday 1st September 2021.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours Sincerely

Mr C Opong-Adarkwa
Assistant Headteacher

