

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, at Potterspury Lodge School, we currently allow our students to bring their mobile devices into school and to keep them on their person throughout the day. However, recently we have seen an increase in the number of incidents where phones have been used as a mechanism to disrupt learning. Personal devices can and often do lead to several problems in school such as filming staff and students, disruption to lessons and inappropriate usage of the internet and social media leading to potential safeguarding issues.

As a result of this, in line with the Secretary of Education's recent recommendations, we have decided to restrict students' access to their phones during the school day. Therefore, when our students return on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, they will be required to hand their mobile or electronic devices into reception. These will be put into a clear plastic wallet with their name on and sealed in the school safe for the day. They will then collect their personal devices at the end of the school day for their return taxi trip.

As a school we recognise that this may be a contentious issue and that this change may come as a surprise to students and parents. This decision has not been made lightly; with increasing numbers of students using their mobile phones in school hours, we believe that it is necessary. Students will be informed of this change to routine two weeks before the October half term, in tutor time, to allow them to process the information and be able to discuss it with staff at school.

We understand that this is going to be more challenging for some students and that they may struggle to come to terms with the new policy. We would ask for your support in helping your child to understand why the decision has been made as we know that our students accept information best when messages, rules and policies are supported and reinforced by parents and carers at home.

Here at Potterspury Lodge School, we strongly encourage our students to develop socially and emotionally and we consider this development to be just as important as any academic progress or examination grades. Improving social skills and emotional development can best be done by talking to each other, interacting, and developing real connections at break and lunchtime, as opposed to students using their mobile phones at these times.

The school appreciates that there are sometimes life events or situations where a student may feel they need contact with home during the day. If a student wants to call home to speak to a parent or carer during the school day, they will be supported to do so from a school phone by staff.

Yours sincerely,



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**Miss Sarah Stacey**  
**Principal**

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