

*"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievements of all the students who attend the school."*

**Ofsted**

March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are all well. I am writing to you to share information that has been addressed in recent whole school assemblies and during tutor time, regarding the use of mobile phones and social media.

As you are aware, at President Kennedy School, we have always been a 'mobile phone free' school. Whilst we understand and recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday modern society, we maintain that as part of our Behaviour Policy, mobile phones are not to be used on the school premises by students (see extract from Behaviour Policy attached).

There are some clear principles as to why this is important for our school community, which I have outlined below, which I discussed with students.

1. **It's about learning:** We want all students to be focused and concentrate fully in their lessons.
2. **Safeguarding:** This protects students. It is important that students are safe, ensuring that no photos or videos are taken and/or shared by students.
3. **Health and well-being:** Having a healthy break from your phone is important. Research shows that there is a link to increased anger, depression, anxiety, sleep problems as well as increased stress levels amongst teenagers, with 41% of students saying that they feel overwhelmed by the messages and notifications they receive.

As discussed in assembly, having a mobile phone holds great responsibility. If mobile phones are used in school, they will be confiscated by the teacher so that a parent or carer can collect it. The same applies to earphones/air pods.

We do understand that the mobile phone is important to you as a parent so that your child can communicate with you to and from school. This is completely understandable, and therefore we ask that phones are put away and are on silent when they are inside the school gates. Please be assured, if there was a reason that your child needed to contact home during school hours, students can liaise with their college team so communication home can be supported.

Your support in continuing these conversations at home are incredibly valuable. As ever, the collaborative work we do to support your child allows them to contribute positively, supports learning, safeguarding and well-being.

Yours sincerely



**Ms Rooke, Acting Headteacher**

# Behaviour and Rewards Policy

<https://www.pks.coventry.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=29>

## Appendix 12: The use of Mobile Technology

It is school policy that students can bring a mobile phone to school but that it should not be used during school hours. Parents are asked to support the school in enforcing this policy. The school believes that by working in partnership this will help the students make the right choices when it comes to how they use their mobile technology.

Whilst the school recognises that mobile phones and similar technology are here to stay and are part of modern day life, the school believes that it is more important that school prepares students for adult life and the ways of work. This requires a formal approach in schools.

At President Kennedy School our commitment to our students and to you is clear. We expect to teach our students to the highest of standards, to support them to be successful, to help them to move on to higher education or employment and to keep them safe and happy whilst they are with us.

The following rules on mobile technology apply:

- Any form of mobile technology being used by a student in school will be confiscated; unless they have permission from a member of staff. This will also apply to break and lunchtimes.
- Any ear/head phones seen in school will be confiscated immediately.
- Any material put on Social Media relating to students and/or staff without the knowledge/ consent of the individual will result in the school reporting the matter to the police; this includes actions bringing the school into disrepute. Perpetrators, including those who share such posted material, will face serious sanctions in school; this may include losing their place at school.
- If a mobile phone, ear/head phones or similar technology are confiscated they will be returned following a meeting involving a parent/carer, the student and a senior member of staff or College Leader.