



Dear Parents/Carers

This letter outlines some of the key findings from the 'Mobile Phone, Technology and Wellbeing' survey emailed to families in March/April 2019. The key information is listed below with the school's conclusion and decision for proactively moving forward.

Overview and Personal Use

- 45% of students in Years 7-10 were surveyed. Primarily the students were from Year 7/8 (54%) while most family responses came from Year 7 families at 35%.
- 96% of students have smartphones and 90% of students use social media.
- 80% of families know how much use their daughter makes of her smartphone while 85% of students claim they know and keep track.
- Three times as many students use their smartphone for 4+ hours more than their families believe.
- 52% of students use their phone at least 2+ hours each day, while 21% spend over 4 hours a day on their phone.
- Nearly half of the students surveyed have their phone within easy reach each night. There is a 10% difference in this statistic between the student and family survey.

Parental Relationship

- 70% of students said they don't check their phone at night, while families suggested this to be closer to 90%.
- Students and families agree on the number and type of apps used while both students and families selected the top four apps/platforms between them (Whatsapp, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat). Families/students broadly agree that they know who is following or part of the group their daughter communicates with.
- There is a large discrepancy in the suitability of content viewed and exposure to inappropriate content. 88% of students feel the content they view is fine while only 54% of families feel content is appropriate.

From this point in my letter, statistics will be shown in the following shortened version, student % followed by family % (xx/xx%).

- Students/Families state 57/66% are checking the content of mobile phones.
- 65/72% know their daughter's passwords to their phone. 20% use parental control while families believe this closer to 35%.
- 77/78% agree that they don't mind having the content checked on their phone.

Personal wellbeing

- 25/28% of students feel they have been subjected to unkind commentary using technology and social media.
- 10/10% of students admit to or realise they have made unkind comments to someone. Families reflect they feel the same.
- 25/38% are negatively affected by content on social media. This is a larger than average discrepancy.
- Only 21% of students are worried about their wellbeing while this rises to 33% of families having a concern about their daughter's wellbeing. This may represent families noticing changes in mood/attitude while students don't recognise this.
- 20% of students worry they may be negatively impacted in the future from social media. Meanwhile, 80% of families are worried about social media and its negative impact.



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School Infrastructure

- 2% of students incorrectly think they are allowed to take photos within the school and post them online. 9% of families share this view.
- 16% of students incorrectly think they are allowed to take photos within the school and to retain them for personal use. 15% of families share this view.
- 8% of students say there is contact during the school day between them and home while 11% of families state they have contact throughout the school day.
- 98/97% know the school rules concerning technology and social media.
- 96/92% know the sanctions around the inappropriate use of mobile phones.
- 20/10% have had or are aware of their mobile phone being confiscated
- 6/5% have had an 'internal exclusion' for social media reasons.

Moving Forward

- 46/47% agree that the most popular method of getting to the school is via public transport on the bus. 8/9% of students are collected from school.
- 67/60% use public transport: either one bus journey, more than one bus journey or the train, to come to school.
- On a typical school day half of students are in contact with their families. 66/71% always have contact on the way home from school.
- On a typical school day half of all students are in contact with their families. 25/48% once, 17/8% twice, 3/2% three times and 4/1% more than three times per day. 51/41% have no contact during the school day.
- 30/65% attended one of the evenings on esafety and social media.
- 72% of students and 85% of families like the emphasis our school places on wellbeing and mindfulness.
- 41/71% of students feel their life would be enhanced without as much technology and social media.
- 47/76% think home life would be better without as much technology intrusion.
- 43% of students and 88% of families agree schools should be tougher on technology. 54% of families strongly agree.

Taking all the feedback into account, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body discussed how to move forward as a school and community. Different options were considered and it was clear that the current and ongoing challenges that students and the school face, cannot continue without some form of proactive and constructive change. Any viable and proactive measure should take a number of matters into account including wellbeing, health and safety, good conduct, poor decision making, cost effectiveness and social/peer pressure (to name a few).

After giving careful consideration to the various options available, the decision has been made to implement a complete ban on 'smartphones' on the school site. With effect from 4th September 2019, students will only be permitted to bring a non-smartphone to school. This is a phone which has no camera/video/internet capabilities.

The decision to move to the non-smartphone allows families to preserve a link with their daughter for her journey to/from school and for when she arrives home. For the school community it enhances the opportunities to be in an environment relatively free from the online pressures some student's face and where the main focus for all stakeholders is to progress personally and academically.

A further letter will be sent to families in early July outlining recommended models or specifications and some information that addresses any financial concerns. We look forward to your continued support in your daughter's education.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Duffy
Deputy Headteacher