



**Sponne School**  
A Music & Science Academy

**Dream Believe Achieve**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**RE: Use of Mobile Phones at School**

The use of mobile phones and other smart technologies has become normal practice in the world of work. As adults we use our mobiles for both personal and professional reasons and are able to set our own boundaries for their appropriate use.

However, research carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation for the Department for Education has found that children have access to mobile technology and social media sites from a very young age and do not have the experience or maturity to manage their own use. The research goes on to say that being able to use a mobile phone at school has a detrimental impact on learning and can also negatively affect behaviour.

At Sponne we recognise that education and learning is more than just about academic achievement, it is also about enabling young people to become confident and compassionate members of our community. As parents and teachers we work together to support your children in all that they do, including in their use of technologies and engagement with social media. The Government guidance to schools is that mobile phones should be banned and whilst that seems appropriate for primary schools, we feel that the approach at Sponne needs to be more reflective of society. The trial for Year 7 students being allowed to have their phones on their person but not allowed to use them at school has been very successful and our plan is to roll this out to Years 8 to 10 from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

Therefore, if students bring mobile phones into school, then as soon as they arrive and until they leave the site at the end of the day they must have their phones turned off and put away in their bags or a secure pocket. If they need to make contact home for any reason this can be facilitated through student services. Teachers will still be able to direct students to use their phone for a purpose connected to their learning. If students do not follow the rules as set then phones will be confiscated and parents asked to collect them.

Thank you for your support with this and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Iain Massey  
Headteacher

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