

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Re: Mobile Phone Consultation

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of the proposed changes to our mobile phone policy. We are currently consulting on these changes and if agreed, they will come into effect at the start of the Summer Term 2022.

### **Current policy**

Our currently policy is to allow students to have their mobile devices and headphones on them in school and to use them before school and during social times. The devices are not allowed to be used in classes and if they are misused, students receive negative behaviour points. Mobile devices are allowed on educational visits unless the trip organiser states differently.

### **Proposed changes**

If agreed, our policy will change so that any mobile devices, including headphones, must not be **seen** or **heard** between 8am and 3.10pm. This will mean that students are not to use any mobile devices from the moment they walk through the school gates and until they leave the school site at the end of the day. We appreciate that students and parents may feel more assured knowing that their child has a mobile phone on them whilst they are making their way to and from school. Mobile phones will still be permitted on site but must be kept in the bottom of a student's school bag. The school canteen will become a mobile device free zone.

Mobile phones will still be permitted on school trips. It will be down to the trip lead to decide how and when phones can be used on the trip.

If a student uses any mobile device on the school site it will be confiscated. Students will be expected to hand over their device at the first time of asking and the device will be clearly labelled and securely stored in the school office. The student will be able to collect the device at the end of the school day. If a student has had their device confiscated for second time, the device will be stored and a parent/carer will need to come to school to collect the device. If a student refuses to hand over their device to a member of staff they will receive an internal exclusion. If there are further instances of defiance then there will be a further consequence.

## **Rationale for the proposed changes**

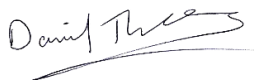
We are becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of time being taken away from teaching and learning due to resolving issues that have occurred either on social media or as a result of mobile phone use. Often, these issues take place out of school hours but spill-over into school as students and parents request our support to resolve them. The amount of time spent on these issues is not sustainable and takes up valuable time which could be used to improve teaching and learning, including the learning behaviours of students.

Another consequence of mobile phone use is the impact on student self-esteem and mental health. There is significant research that highlights the negative role of social media on the confidence of young people. We are continuing to strengthen our provision in this area, as well as highlight the challenges which social media presents us with. At Bournville, we want our school to be a place where all students thrive, both academically and emotionally.

We believe that these proposed changes are fair and will enhance the education your child is currently receiving. We welcome your feedback on the use of mobile devices in school and therefore invite you to complete a short survey using the link below. If you wish to participate in the survey could you please submit your response by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

<https://forms.office.com/r/7uyN90Vp4J>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr D Thomas  
Deputy Head of Academy