



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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09 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: MOBILE PHONES IN COLLEGE

We have recently reviewed our routines around mobile phone use in school, in particular during break and lunch. We have seen a rise in the number of students accessing phones during lesson change over as well as at social times. With any increase in phone use, the risk to students' safety and wellbeing increases. Therefore, we have decided to support students by having a reset of our mobile phone policy. In keeping with this month's theme of online safety and safeguarding, I have attached two resources that you can access for guidance and advice.

The mobile phone reset will help improve behaviour still further and reduce online bullying, while supporting students by boosting their attention while learning. Lessons are disruption free, as student behaviour is generally very good and systems for dealing with any student who does misbehave are well established. The clamp down on mobile phone use is the logical next step to ensure students get the most from their time with us. This slight change to our policy fits directly with the recent government guidance for schools on banning all phones. This change will continue to help us to raise standards in increasing students' focus and reducing distractions.

[Mobile phone use to be banned in schools in England](#)

From **Wednesday 15 November** we will be reverting back to our previous phone policy where phones (including headphone and air pods) will be confiscated if seen out (including in lesson). Students will be able to collect their phones at the end of the day from the relevant member of staff (as they currently would do for any confiscated items). Students will be informed of the reset this week during morning welcome. Students will only be able to use phones in school if directed and supervised by staff. We will use **Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 November** as an opportunity for students to practice how to get it right before we start to confiscate from **Wednesday 15 November**.

If phones are brought into school, they must be switched off and in school bags during the day. Any phones and other equipment (such as earphones and air pods) brought into school are the sole responsibility of the student at all times. **The school will not be held liable for loss and/or damage to any items such as these brought onto school site.**

If you need to contact your son/daughter in an emergency and/or need to pass a message on, please continue to contact the school directly.

Online Safety

- [Net aware & additional resources advice sheet Childnet pdf](#)

Child Exploitation

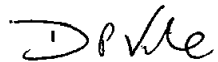
- [Parents Protect Exploitation leaflet](#)

Cont/d ...

Behaviour & Learning

- [Policy](#)

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr D Vile

Assistant Headteacher, Culture

Truth Respect Equality Excellence



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