

28 May 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

During the past year, the majority of our community have become even more reliant on phones and technology. Since returning from the two national lockdowns, we have noticed an increased reliance on phones within our school community. We want to ensure that our students are making the most of the face to face learning and social opportunities within the school day, we want to ensure their mental health and wellbeing is supported positively and we want to engage them in activities such as school clubs and events.

With this in mind, from Monday 7 June, we have taken the decision to more rigorously enforce our current mobile phone policy of phones being switched off and placed away in a bag or pocket, with the slight change of removing the option to listen to music using headphones during break times. Mobile phones have unfortunately become an unwelcome distraction during the school day and the current use of a phone to listen to music during breaks, is being breached too frequently with the phone being used for other reasons.

Our school priority must be to focus on education and learning, and student wellbeing and happiness. The need to remind students to switch off and not engage with their phones is distracting from this focus.

We believe, as we are sure you do as parents and carers, the change will benefit student wellbeing immensely as students will not be constantly thinking about the content of their phone and social media. Mobile phones can and do create a negative climate at times.

Students will continue to be permitted to bring their mobile phone to school for the journey to and from school, as we recognise and understand this is an important safety measure. At 8.30am, when students enter the school premises, they will be expected to switch off their phones and place it in a school bag or pocket. The phone must remain switched off and out of sight for the whole of the school day. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone for any activity, including listening to music with headphones (the change to the policy).

Phones must not be seen or heard. If a student decides to have their phone on display (i.e – carrying it in their hand) or decides to use their phone, they will be asked to hand it to a member of staff and it will be labelled and locked away safely in the school reception. The phone will then be collected at the end of the school day by the student. We will be encouraging students to comply with our expectations and to not place staff in the position of needing to confiscate a phone. If a phone is not seen or heard, confiscation will not be necessary.

The only exception to this policy will be the rare occasion when a phone can be used for a learning purpose, for example as a stopwatch in a PE lesson. Any use in lesson time will be the decision of the teacher and students will be expected to comply with teacher expectations in these circumstances too.

We anticipate that this change will be an adjustment for students, but we know over time they will recognise the value of avoiding the distractions during the school day, and will ultimately realise this is in their best interests.

We are sure as parents and carers you share our concerns regarding mobile phone use, extensive screen time and the increasing invasion phones have on young lives.

It would be very helpful if you can discuss the changes to the mobile phone policy with your child over the half term break before they return to school on 7 June, to ensure they are very clear of the procedures.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this letter and to wish you a relaxing half term holiday. Please find below information regarding track and trace over the holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Moral  
Deputy Headteacher

### **Track and trace during the Easter break**

All schools have an important role with track and trace to support the national drive to reduce virus transmission. The Government expects all schools to maintain track and trace communication with families for the first part of the holiday and identify where students would be required to self isolate in the event of a positive case being identified in school within the first few days of the holiday. Our email address for parents / carers to notify us of a positive COVID case during the first few days of the May break is: [enquiries@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk)

It will be monitored twice daily throughout the first part of the holiday and should be used to notify us of the following:

- a) Your child develops COVID-19 symptoms before 2:45pm on Sunday afternoon
- b) The test result following notifying us about a) above

Other email addresses may not be monitored – please use this address only.

If you email the school on the above contact, please include the following information:

- Your child's name
- Symptoms or test result
- Your name and contact telephone number
- The last day that your child was present at school

The school only needs to enact track and trace during the holiday for your child's close contacts if both of the following apply:

1. Your child's symptoms started before 2:45pm on Sunday 30 May
2. Your child then has a confirmed case of COVID following a test

The infectious period is 48 hours prior to symptoms starting; close contacts during this period would need to self-isolate. For example: if symptoms start on Monday 31 May, 48 hours prior to this time is Saturday when your child was not in school. We would therefore not need to take any action with regard to track and trace.

We all hope this will not be needed, but we are here to support if required during the first few days of the holiday. Thank you for your support with the Government expectations placed upon us to protect our community and our families.