

# Shirebrook Academy

Principal: Lindsey Burgin BA (Hons) PGCE, MA  
Chair of Governors: Mike McDermott  
Executive Principal: Rebecca Hibberd BEd (Hons), MA  
CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons) PGCE



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21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## **RE: use of mobile phones in our academies**

In February of this year, the government published its new guidance on prohibiting mobile phone use during the school day, acknowledging that 'mobile phones are one of the greatest challenges schools face'. The guidance has given the trust the opportunity to review current practice especially as we have seen an increase in online bullying, lost learning time and general distraction/disruption because of mobile phone usage. There have also been links reported between excessive screen time and reduced educational performance.

As well as our concerns, we also know that you, our parents/carers share these worries too. All our academies currently restrict the use of mobile phones whilst students are in school, however, we have reviewed this and feel that we need to make further amendments.

The government offered the following approaches in their guidance –

- a) No mobile phones on the school premises
- b) Mobile phone handed in on arrival
- c) Mobile phones kept in secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day
- d) Mobile phones never used, seen or heard on the school premises

Considering the challenges, we face, yet appreciating the safeguarding concerns about students travelling to and from school, we have decided to adopt a hybrid of the strategies offered. Students will be allowed to bring their mobile phones to school but will be asked that they are then turned off, so they are not used, seen or heard during the school day. There will be consequences for breaching this policy, including confiscation.

## **Our revised approach to the use of mobile phones is outlined below.**

We will be sharing this with students during assemblies / tutor time, in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June. It will then become policy from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

We thank you in advance for your support with this amendment to our current policy. We have taken in to consideration the government guidelines but more so, the feedback we have received from academy staff and from yourselves.



**All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

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If you would like to discuss these changes, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's academy. Gaining feedback from other schools and academies in our local communities who already have this approach, we feel positive about the changes it will make to levels of concentration, learning and student engagement.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Hibberd  
Executive Principal



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