



Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Reminder: Student Mobile Phone Policy and Parent/Carer Conduct

I am writing to all families today to firmly request your continued support in maintaining a safe, focused, and disruption-free environment at The Bourne Academy.

Our Student Mobile Phone Policy states very clearly that smartphones and smart devices are not permitted on the Academy site. These items are strictly banned. This is following the national picture, Government announcements and statutory guidance from the Department of Education. The local education picture is also very similar, and most schools have taken this approach. Therefore, if a student brings a smartphone onto the Academy premises and it is seen or heard by staff, it will be confiscated immediately and stored securely. In line with our policy protocols, confiscated smartphones/smart devices will only be returned directly to a parent or carer, and collection can only take place after 9:15 am on the following Academy day, for a first offense. For devices confiscated on a Friday, this means the item cannot be collected until Monday morning. We understand that some parents and carers wish their children to carry a mobile phone for their journey to and from school. Under strict conditions, students are permitted to bring a basic 'brick' phone (defined as a basic device with no internet connectivity, no apps, no app store, and no camera), ie turned off and in the bottom of their bag.

The Student Mobile phone policy clearly lays out sanctions for any student caught with a smart device or brick phone. In all cases this will mean a confiscation. While we understand that the confiscation of a device can cause temporary inconvenience, we require all parents and carers to fully support our staff in enforcing these rules and conduct themselves appropriately when collecting their child's device.

I must remind our entire school community that the Academy maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards aggressive, abusive, or intimidating behaviour directed at our staff. Our team works tirelessly to support your children, and they have the right to do so in a safe and respectful workplace. Please be explicitly advised that any incidents of verbal abuse, swearing, or physical aggression towards Academy staff may result in an immediate and formal **Banning Order preventing entry to the school site, alongside potential legal prosecution under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996.**

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and shared commitment to keeping our school community safe and successful.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
Principal

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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