



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Jackie Johnstone, B.Ed Hons

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr. Patrick Kenny, BA

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Mobile Phones

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have decided that from the start of the academic year 2021 – 2022 in September, we will no longer allow pupils to bring mobile phones onto the school site

There are several reasons for doing this.

First of all, we have genuine concerns about the safety of our pupils carrying mobile phones on their own to and from school. These phones potentially make them a target for robbery.

Some of you will agree completely with this and others may have a different view. It could be argued that the safety of a child who walks to and from the site can only be improved by having a mobile phone. However, we feel that a mobile phone does not guarantee the safety of children. If you are concerned about your child's safety walking alone, you need to arrange to drop off and collect your child directly from the school.

Secondly, there has been an increasing number of incidents regarding pupils' use of social media sites. Although these incidents occur outside of school, not during school hours they are increasingly causing problems during the school day. These are complex matters involving large groups of children and their families that can take a significant amount of time to resolve. That time could be better spent in the classroom. Pupils having unsupervised access to their mobile device before and after school has, unfortunately, contributed to this problem.

Thirdly, with an ever-increasing number of mobile phones being handed in, there is a significant impact on the classroom environment or office. Normal day to day business is disrupted twice daily as pupils come to either drop-off or retrieve their mobile phone.

Finally, we feel that we should contribute to the broader debate about the amount of screen time our children are experiencing. By making this restriction, we are automatically reducing access to screen and mobile technology and allowing more time for our children to have face to face conversations and continue to develop relationships based in the physical world rather than online.

We want to thank you in advance for your continued co-operation in this and all school matters.

Sincerely

Mrs Johnstone

Mr Kenny

Headteacher

Acting Deputy Headteacher

