



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL
"Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community"

20th July 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important Information Regarding Mobile Phones

The Governing Body, through their School Development Committee, have recently undertaken a review of the school policy determining children and mobile phones. In recent years the school have considered written requests from parents seeking permission for their child in **Year 6 only** to bring a mobile phone to school giving a specific reason as to why it is necessary. On a case by case basis this has been considered and in most cases permission granted.

However in the last two years we have seen the number of requests increase considerably and often without any real tangible reason for the need to bring a mobile phone to school. Often the 'need' for a mobile phone seems to be more about having it as a fashion accessory rather than needing it for any real reason. Increasingly the types of phones we have handed in are often very expensive models, e.g. iPhone, with access to email and internet. The number of requests has also put undue and unnecessary pressure on the school office in dealing with individual requests, replying by letter and storing the phones throughout the course of the school day. It also creates a great deal of interruption and pressure at peak times when children are dropping off and collecting mobile phones at the start and end of each day. We have limited capacity to store mobile phones and often they fail to be properly labelled and turned off. Although we accept no responsibility for any damage or loss when the phones are on the school premises there have been a few occasions when this has caused problems which can be upsetting to both the children and the office staff.

Through our discussions at the School Development Committee it was also agreed that although the request to have a mobile phone in school is usually associated with safety it in fact can put children in more danger of harm. The Governing Body feel that many children can be targeted for their phone and become a victim of crime. We also have grave reservations about children having awareness of their surroundings, particularly associated to road safety and crossing the road, as they are distracted by using their mobile phone. Mobile phones also have the potential to be used to intimidate children through access to social media. The Governing Body also feel that if parents allow their children to

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walk to and from school independently then this must be based on trust rather than relying on a mobile phone for reassurance.

Therefore I am writing to inform you that following ratification by the Governing Body of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School we will no longer accept or allow mobile phones in school from **September 2015**. From the beginning of the new academic year any mobile phones found in the possession of children will be confiscated and parents will be asked to collect their child's phone in person from the school office.

We are communicating this information to you ahead of September 2015 so you have a chance to review the changes. I understand that some of you may have strong feelings about this review and change one way or another. If you do have any views which you feel you would like to express or share with us then can I ask you to put this in writing for the attention of the Governing Body.

Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter and I hope this letter clarifies the situation with regard to mobile phones from September 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dean Moran
Headteacher