



Dear Parents / Carers,

Consultation on change to mobile phone policy

We are reviewing our approach to the use of mobile phones in school and I am seeking your views on the school adopting a mobile phone ban between the times of 8.30 and 2.45. The consultation window opens today and closes on Wednesday 13th July at 9.00 am. Please complete the Microsoft Forms link below to register your views. Your input will be very much appreciated.

<https://forms.office.com/r/NzuoJSdajy>

Rationale for change

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the negative impact on our students' well-being and the disruption to their learning and progress caused by mobile phones. Since our return from lockdown, we have seen an increase in student reliance and dependence on such devices to the detriment of building positive face-to-face relationships. Evidence is starting to emerge which suggests extensive use of mobile phone technology may be detrimental to children's mental health and well-being. Research is available that highlights the negative role of social media on young people's confidence and self and social awareness.

Although there are arguably benefits to mobile phone technology, we have found that as mobile phones have developed more features, they are increasingly distracting students from their learning. Alerts from social media platforms, emails, texts and even calls during the school day are proving very difficult for students to resist checking and responding to; not to mention the facility to listen to music, play games, take photography/film and the risks of cyberbullying. The technology available on mobile phones is becoming more covert and technical and there is a concern around safeguarding students when the student population has access to this technology.

This is clearly an issue that goes beyond our school and is an issue facing communities at large and schools are becoming increasingly concerned.

In conclusion, I am advocating Ysgol Cwm Brombil adopts a ban on students' use of mobile phones during the school day between 8.30 am-2.45pm, to help safeguard pupils, protect them from the negative influences of social media and remove the increasing disruption to

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their learning and progress. I am confident that we all want our students to be fully engaged in lessons, not distracted by mobile phones and the pressure of social media. I have included a collection of possible questions that you may have to help clarify the position I am proposing.

I look forward to receiving your views to help inform the decision making process.

Your Sincerely

Mr S. Clarke
Headteacher

1	What is the school's current policy on mobile phones?
	Mobile phones are allowed in the ground floor canteen before school and at break/lunch times.
2	Can my child still bring their phone to the school?
	Yes. Many of us are parents and we appreciate why you would want your child to have a phone on the way to or from school. They just need to be turned off and out of sight, for example in bags, and not used between the hours of 8.30am-2.45pm.
3	What if I need to contact my child at school?
	In an emergency, simply phone the school office on 01639 760110 and the message will be passed to them.
4	What if my child feels that they urgently need to contact me? They might need me to drop something in that they have forgotten
	Realistically, these occasions occur very rarely, if at all. Our staff are trained and well equipped to handle the issues that may arise on any given school day. However, if they desperately need to contact you, they can speak to their Pastoral leads or a Senior member of staff who will make a decision as to what should be done next.
5	I am concerned about my child's phone being confiscated. How can I help them avoid this?
	The easiest way to avoid problems is to encourage your child to get into a strict routine of turning their phone off as they approach the school. It should then be placed out of sight. Your child is in control of their phone and they need to be responsible for following the guidelines.
6	My child has left their phone on and needs to turn it off. What should they do?
	The student should be prompt and honest and ask the member of staff if they can turn their phone off. Speaking to a member of staff first will avoid any potential conflicts.
7	As the restriction ends at 2.45pm, can mobile phones be used on site after that time?

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	Yes, although we may take the necessary steps if we feel that they are being used to promote negative interaction between students
8	What if my child needs to tell the time?
	There will be a number of clocks around the school and staff members will be able to guide in terms of how long is left in a particular lesson
9	What if the school needs my child to do something at the end of the school day?
	We will contact you of this is the case
10	Does this inhibit access to virtual learning and apps that the school invests in?
	There is no requirement for students to be accessing any learning apps through their mobile phone during the day.
11	What about my child accessing their timetable on their phone?
	This should be checked at home, when the student is preparing for the school day ahead. Students should have a copy of their timetable in their pencil cases or another safe place. We would recommend that you have one timetable on display at home and that you help them organise themselves to ensure they are planned for the day ahead.
12	What will be the sanction for student's who break the ban?
	Devices will be confiscated and held securely in our Ready to Learn provision. Students will then collect at the end of the school day. If there is a second occurrence within the week, the device will be confiscated and held for parental collection. A third occurrence will result in confiscation and a parental meeting as this may indicate a safeguarding issue.
13	What happens next?
	Once the consultation window closes on 13 th July at 9 am, all responses received will be considered. A decision will then be taken to adopt the proposal, not to adopt the proposal or to adapt the proposal in light of the consultation. All parents, students and teachers will be informed of the decision the week beginning Monday 18 th July.

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