

21st June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

New Mobile Phone Procedures

Following information published by the Department for Education earlier this year, I am writing to update you regarding the use of mobile phones at Jarrow School. The changes described in this letter will begin when students return to school for the new academic year in September.

Rationale

The Department for Education has carried out research over the last few years and the results of this show that mobile phones have become a real distraction to learning. The research has also shown that mobile phones also have a negative impact on mental health and well-being. As a result of this research, all schools have been asked to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.

Procedures

We understand that many parents want their child to have their mobile phone with them on their way to and from school and this is still possible however from the time students enter the building at 8.40am, the use of mobile phones will be prohibited until students leave the building at the end of the school day. Students should therefore not use their mobile phones at all during the school day, including during lessons, in the time between lessons, at breaktimes and at lunchtimes and on the way out of school at 2.35pm until they have left the building.

Students will be allowed to keep their mobile phones with them, on the condition they are placed in a bag and are never used, seen or heard on the school premises. These procedures will also apply for smartwatches, airpods (or similar style headphones) and any other smart devices.

In the case of an emergency, when you need to contact your child during the school day, this can be done via reception on 0191 4283200 or through the school email info@jarrowschool.com as students will not be able to answer their phone or respond to any messages left on their phone.

There will also be exceptional circumstances when mobile phones can be used e.g. where a student has a specific medical condition, however this will be considered on a case by case basis, and must be agreed in advance.

We do appreciate that this is a major change however it is in line with the Department for Education's guidance and the vast majority of other school's already have procedures such as this in place or will be preparing for these changes to take place in September. Assemblies next week will focus on the new procedures and students will be reminded of the new procedures during form time over the next few weeks to prepare them for these changes.

Many thanks in advance for your support with this. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this new procedure, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Miss J. Gillies
Head Teacher