



20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Access to mobile phones in school

You will have seen a number of articles and TV coverage regarding access to mobile phones in schools. I am writing to consult with you about this.

Ormiston Academies Trust's position is that having smartphones in schools has a number of negative impacts. They are a distraction in the classroom and so hinder learning, and there is significant evidence that they do not support good mental health among children and young people. Our trust and schools prioritise teaching, learning, good behaviour and children's mental health and so we think it is really important to consider limiting mobile phone use in schools if they interfere with these priorities.

I am sharing two stories that have been published last week:

[Academy chain with 35,000 pupils to be first in England to go phone-free | Schools | The Guardian](#)

[How going phone-free taught pupils at English secondary 'to socialise, old school' | Schools | The Guardian](#)

The articles highlight the importance of teaching and learning free from the distractions of mobile phones, and the negative impact of phones on children and young people's mental health.

At Rivers we are considering adopting a system of mobile phone collection, safe keeping and phone return at the beginning and end of each day.

I would appreciate your feedback. Please click on the link below to complete an online form to allow you to share your views.

[Parent /Carer Mobile Phone Consultation Form](#)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Williams,
Principal
Ormiston Rivers Academy