



Hayle Academy

Monday 3rd February 2025

Mobile Phone Policy: Parent Survey

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will probably know, we currently allow students of all ages to bring a phone to school. In our policy, this is on the basis that it is switched off, kept hidden throughout the school day and not used or seen at any point across the school site. This policy has been in place for some time.

Following the publication of guidance from the Department of Education which requires schools to prohibit the use of mobile phones, many schools now go further and have introduced a ban on smart phones. The Department for Education guidance is available here: [Mobile phones in schools - February 2024](#). We know there are growing numbers of parents and carers who wish their child to be 'smart phone free' and that the Government continues to try to close loop holes which allow children to access harmful content online.

As a group of professionals working with children, we have been working with colleagues in our partner schools within Truro and Penwith Academy Trust to review our approach and to consider whether or not we should develop our Mobile Phone Policy. Some of the evidence we have considered includes the potential impact of mobile phone use on children:

1. Nationally, around one in five children have experienced online bullying.
2. Social interactions: when they are with their friends, mobile phones can distract children from being 'present' in the conversations and interactions.
3. Sleep patterns: despite how it may appear, teenagers actually need more sleep than older people. This can be interrupted by phone use. Lack of sleep may then affect a child's ability to concentrate at school.
4. Attention fragmentation: The presence of a phone in a pocket or bag has been shown to affect performance - the owner of the phone wonders who 'might' contact them. We know that some of our pupils repeatedly ask to go to the toilet: sometimes this is to check their phone not because they 'need to go'.
5. Addiction: it is well-documented that the design of phones and apps is addictive. The system they use is summarised as follows: a trigger (for example a notification); an action (the user has to open the device); a variable reward (for example, the user can see someone has 'liked' something they have said); and investment; users invest in the system by contributing through posts. This is an addictive sequence of actions and rewards which teenage brains may be more susceptible to than adult brains.

We know that our children are more anxious than any generation before them. We therefore feel it is right that we review our Mobile Phone Policy, with your input, to ensure we are doing all we can to provide for their education free from the interruptions and risks that mobile phone use can present.

Please complete our survey by using this link: [TPAT Parent/Carer Survey Jan 2025 - Mobile Phone Policy](https://tpacademytrust.org/parent-carer-survey-jan-2025-mobile-phone-policy). Your feedback is important to us and will be used alongside the views of our staff and pupils to contribute to our review. The survey **will remain open until the end of Friday 14th February**.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support and valuable feedback.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Melissa Lock
Headteacher