

20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Following our parents forum event on the Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June I am writing to inform you that from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the use of mobile phones will be banned on the school site for all students from Year 7 to Year 11.

This ban is required in order to minimise the safeguarding risks to all members of the school community. This change in policy will bring Frederick Gent School into line with other schools in the area.

**If a student's mobile phone is seen, used or heard on the school site it will be confiscated**

Our first duty as a school is to safeguard your child. The ban on mobile phone use in school will help to ensure that this priority is met. Mobile phones can also highlight the disparity between students and cause social isolation. In addition, Mobile phones and smart watches are not allowed into exam environments and therefore this change in policy will prepare students for their GCSE exams in year 11.

You will be aware of instances highlighted in the media of mobile phone misuse in schools and the serious consequences that can arise as a result. All schools are affected and all students vulnerable to risk. Safeguarding risks include; the taking and sharing of photographs and video without permission, the inappropriate use of social media, accessing inappropriate materials, sharing personal information and cyber-bullying.

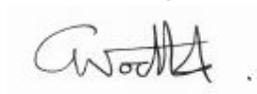
The current school contact policy will continue as before. If urgent contact is required with your son/daughter during the school day, then you should contact the school and the message will be passed on. If a student needs to contact home, they can do this through their pastoral teams or school reception.

If your child chooses to bring a mobile phone to use on the journey to and from school, then they do so at their own risk. The school will take no responsibility for loss or damage to a mobile phone at school. If brought onto the school site, phones must be switched off and completely out of sight at all times.

I would ask that you discuss this important and permanent safeguarding policy change with your child to ensure a smooth transition. For further information, there is a frequently asked questions section on the website.

Thanks, for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Woollard

Headteacher