



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Re: MTS Mobile Phone Policy

Dear Parents of New Boys,

You will have seen in our Mobile Phone Policy that phones are not allowed to be used in school without explicit permission from a teacher. Pupils do not need to bring a phone into school and, in fact, we discourage their use altogether in the Lower School: the majority of pastoral and behavioural incidents involve phone use and social media and they are a distraction to developing a good work ethic. Boys in the Lower School are not old enough to use social media responsibly and safely.

We appreciate that you may prefer your son to have a phone to use for travel to and from school, in case of difficulties or delays. We recommend that he has a non-smart phone (such as a Nokia 3310) for this purpose, which can be bought very cheaply and also reduces the risk of damage or theft when traveling to school.

If you choose to give your son a smart phone to use at home, we would also recommend that you support him in developing good habits around its use, such as not having it in his room at night or when he is studying, and with him not having access to apps such as Tik Tok, Instagram or WhatsApp until he is at least the recommended age (13 and 16, respectively). It is much easier to initiate good habits when a child is starting senior school and first gets a phone, rather than retrospectively trying to introduce rules.

We will be educating the boys on healthy online behaviour and mobile phone use through our PSHE and wider pastoral curriculum, and reinforcing the above messages. You may find the following articles helpful <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/> and <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/keeping-your-child-safe-their-smartphone#:~:text=Show%20interest%20in%20your%20child's,for%20your%20child%20or%20not.>

Please contact us if you need any advice about mobile phone use at MTS.

Best wishes,

Dr Clare Harrison
Deputy Head Pastoral

Mr James Manley
Lower Master

Mrs Ellie Lemoine
Head of Lower School