



Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

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Dear Parent / Carer

Mobile Phones and Social Media

I am having to write this letter because I have had reports just this week of children making unpleasant personal remarks about other children, name calling and swearing in a WhatsApp group; **this is bullying and completely unacceptable**. If your child has any device that connects to the internet, please monitor how they are using it and ensure they are doing so in a responsible manner.

The internet has become a big part of our lives, so we need to teach our children how to use it safely and responsibly. Below I outline Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School's position on mobile phones and the use of the internet.

We would **actively discourage** primary age children having free access to a personal mobile phone for the following reasons:

- They are very difficult to lock down and so allow full connectivity to the internet and access to a range of apps and social media sites.
- Given they are carried by children when unsupervised by an adult; it is very difficult to control and monitor how they are being used.
- Through natural curiosity, peer pressure or by accident, children are able to access things which they may not yet be mature enough to handle responsibly without strict adult supervision and guidance.
- Children walking in the street on a phone are less aware of any potential dangers around them.
- When in a group – real or virtual - peer pressure can lead children to make poor choices.
- When using social media or networking applications, such as WhatsApp, children do say things which they may not say to someone 'face-to-face' and such things which are instantly seen by a wide audience. In addition, they may reveal information that should be kept more private: *once it is 'out there' it stays 'out there'*.
- Children can over use them – sometimes late into the night.
- They are very expensive to own and run but easily lost, stolen or broken.

Mobile phones are **not to be used** by pupils in school. If children bring them into school it is on the understanding that we will collect them in, but cannot accept responsibility for them during the school day as we do not have a completely secure place to store them.

I must also point out that many applications and games have recommended age restrictions for a reason. We strongly recommend that children do not join unmonitored WhatsApp groups (Age 13year limit) or similar networking chat applications, nor play on-line games such as Fortnite (Age 12year limit) without supervision.

I thank you for your understanding in this matter as we work together to ensure the well-being of your child so they enjoy their learning and exceed expectations.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Barrington, Co-Headteacher



Enjoying Learning - Exceeding Expectations