



CITY OF COVENTRY

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Recently, within school, we have been discussing with the children the use of mobile phones. We are aware that many children in years five and six now have their own mobile phone, many of these being smart phones. Unfortunately, we have been spending a significant amount of time in school dealing with issues arising from the use of mobile phones **outside of school hours and often at times at night when you would expect children of this age to be asleep**. This has had an impact on many children's learning within school.

We understand that mobile phones can be used to help keep you in contact with your child, especially as they develop their independence. However we would encourage discussions with your child about the appropriate use of their mobile phone.

Some issues have arisen through the children's use of communication apps. Many of these apps have age restrictions within their terms and conditions. For example **WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16**.

Other issues have arisen from the sharing of personal information, including mobile phone numbers. We are aware that many children wish to keep in contact with their friends. We have discussed that they should **NOT** be giving their friends numbers to anyone else - even if they are to others within the friendship group. Some children have become confused and upset when receiving calls from people they have not given their details to.

We have also dealt with issues from children receiving texts and calls **very late at night** and many texts and calls in the space of a short amount of time. We have encouraged the children to switch off their mobiles at night. We have also discussed the fact that these texts and calls are not an emergency and many issues can be left until they see their friends at school the following day.

We would encourage you to carefully monitor the use of your child's phone and discuss these issues with your child. We have spoken to some parents directly regarding some of the issues and welcome the support they have given - restricting or removing the use of their child's mobile phone. Our advice would be to remove the phone from your child at bedtime.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Ellis (Headteacher) and Upper Phase Teachers

