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*Ysgol Gyfun*  
**PORTHCRAWL**  
*Comprehensive School*

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**Headteacher/Pennaeth: M. J. Stephens NPQH, P Dip Ed, BA (Hons)**

**Deputy Headteacher/Dirprwy Bennaeth: D.W.A Beard BA (Hons)**

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27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Mobile Phones**

Over recent weeks, we have noticed an increase in the number of pupils using their mobile phones on the school premises. I am writing to make you aware of this matter, and I ask for your support in ensuring that your child clearly understands the rules and expectations with regards to mobile phone use at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

As outlined in our School Code of Behaviour for Pupils and our 'Ready to Learn' expectations mobile phones used during school time will be confiscated. This includes lesson time, breaktime, lunchtime and when outside in recreational areas of our school site. Please see: <https://www.porthcawlschool.co.uk/pupils/school-code-of-conduct/>

Mobile Phones can be brought to school, but they must remain switched off in each pupil's bag. I fully understand the need to use a mobile phone (if needed) when travelling home and/or contacting a family member after school, however a pupil must not be seen with a mobile phone unless instructed by a member of staff. A pupil might be granted permission to use their phone. E.g. to access homework, use Google Classroom and/or view ClassCharts however, they will be given clear instructions by a member of staff when/if this is required.

There are several reasons why we do not wish pupils to use their phones during the school day:

- Phones are distracting when in lessons;
- We want pupils to focus on their learning;
- We wish to ensure robust safeguarding of pupils and staff;
- Inappropriate use of social media can be the cause of many friendship and self-esteem problems;
- The internet has adult content which can be used inappropriately; and
- We encourage pupils to talk and socialise with their friends at break and lunchtime.

To end, could I kindly ask that you remind your child for the period of time they are on the school site, their mobile phone should be switched off and remain in their bag. It should not be seen. Confiscated phones can be collected at the end of the day from the reception area. Repeated confiscation will require parents/carers to collect their child's phone from school. Inappropriate use of mobile phones and social media, along with the recording and distribution of videos/photos can result in fixed-term exclusion from school. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Cofion/regards,

*M. Stephens*

Headteacher/Pennaeth