



TIMBERCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Timbercroft Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2SG
Tel: 020 8854 6915

www.timbercroftschoo.org.uk Twitter: @Timbercroftps

Mobile Phones in School

In light of several incidents in school involving technology and social media over the last four years, we continue to review our practices on children having mobile phones in school. Our current policy prohibits all children from bringing their mobile phones into school. For several years we have not allowed mobile phones in school and have informed parents that they should not be allowing their child to bring a phone as it could be lost or stolen. However, we have had an increasing number of phones coming into school for Year 6 children.

In line with our policy, mobile phones come under our rule of banned items. This means that staff may confiscate or seize items in the possession of pupils that are illegal or banned by the school. On the first occasion a pupil is seen with a phone in school, it will be confiscated and stored securely by the school and parents/carers will be required to collect it from school at the end of the day. If a phone is repeatedly brought into school, the pupil will be sanctioned and the phone confiscated until the end of the current term.

Studies have indicated the following safeguarding concerns:

- Using a mobile phone, whether making a call or texting, wearing a hood or listening to loud music, all affect your awareness of your surroundings.
- Researchers at The Ohio State University say an estimated 1,500 pedestrians were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to using their cell phones while walking.
- A study from Stony Brook University showed that when people used their cell phones while walking, they were 61 percent more likely to veer off course, and 13 percent more likely to overshoot their target than when they were not distracted.
- In the UK, 54.1% of the students had some dangerous behaviours such as not paying attention to traffic lights and road conditions due to using mobile phones, and 41.7% of the students reported that the occurrence of sprained feet, tripping and collisions in the past was related to distracted walking. ([Prevalence and perceptions of cell phone use while walking in high school students](#))
- Between calendar years 2021 and 2022, London experienced an increase of almost 4,000 offences of robbery (around 2,000 relating to mobile phones). In calendar year 2022 there were 38,996 theft from person offences involving a mobile phone, this is 68 per cent of all such offences. So far in calendar year 2023 we have seen a 27 per cent increase in theft from person offences involving a mobile phone. (9/8/2023)
(<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/year-end-crime-statistics-21-22/>)

Some parents in year 6 may think that it is a safety net, but if you are worried about your child walking to school may we suggest that you accompany them.

We ask that you further discuss this with your child over the weekend and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Angela Cartwright

Head of School

Julie Bailey

Deputy Headteacher