



John Donne Primary School

Woods Road, Peckham, SE15 2SW

Smart phones in school

Some pupils currently bring phones in to school so that parents and carers can keep in contact with their child on the way home. We have agreed in the past that phones can be brought to school if we have a letter from parents to explain why it is needed.

However, we have recently had a number of smart phones being brought to school and this has caused problems with social network sites. We are also concerned that these phones are valuable and we do not have the space or facility to store them safely.

In discussion with the school council, **pupils** said, in their own words, that:

1. Phones in school should only be used parents to contact their children or vice versa
2. Some children bringing smart phones to school meant that those who didn't have one felt disadvantaged and that it could be used for showing off and making fun of other pupils without a smart phone
3. Having a smart phone made you more vulnerable to being mugged
4. A smart phone holds a lot of personal information that could be used if the phone was lost or stolen
5. There are safety worries as children may see or experience contacts through the internet that could frighten them or make them unhappy
6. Smart phone contracts make it very difficult for parents to monitor phone use

As a result of this discussion and the recent problems with social networks, we ask that pupils do not bring smart phones in to school. If a phone is needed for school, it must be a simple phone **which does not link to the internet**. These can be bought cheaply on pay-as-you-go in e.g. Tesco's for around £7. We ask that parents let us know why the phone is needed. Phones must be labelled and left in the school office. Any other sort of phone will be sent back home with a request not to bring it back to school.

We thank you for your support in this. Children may well have smart phones and tablets at home and use the internet under your supervision but we would again ask that you look at the advice and guidance for parents concerning safe internet use on the school website and be vigilant in overseeing your child's activities.

With best regards,
Simon Wattam
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Co-Head Teachers



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