



NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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6th January 2015

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Concern about misuse of mobile technology in school

I am writing to remind you of school policy regarding mobile phones and electronic devices. **Mobile phones and other electronic devices which can access the internet, including Ipods, tablets and smart watches, are not allowed in school.**

There are many reasons for this policy:

1. To ensure the privacy and safety of all children
2. To limit the risk of damage to the emotional well-being of children, including access to potentially unsuitable materials
3. To avoid peer pressure and competitiveness regarding the make and model
4. To avoid disruption to pupils learning
5. To avoid theft, loss and damage of valuable items
6. The internet is accessed very safely at school and so we cannot allow other internet- ready devices to be brought into school that do not have the same filtering systems and which could possibly be accessed by children without supervision.

We have witnessed on many occasions this year an increased risk of bullying on electronic devices, as well as the potential misuse of them, including the issues surrounding the safe use of the camera facilities. Children's safeguarding must always be paramount and we cannot allow technology into school where images could be captured and then downloaded at home. Adults in school are also required to adhere to clear guidelines about the use of technology (the Mobile Phone Statement and E Safety and Acceptable Use Policy 2012 – 2015 can be found on the school website.).

We acknowledge that some parents feel that their children may be safer with a mobile phone when walking to and from school. However, there are reports which highlight the fact that of all mobile phones that are stolen, a large proportion of these are taken from children and young people.

I hope that this helps you to understand the reasons for this ban on mobile phones and electronic devices and that you will help us to ensure the safety and well-being of your child and others by making sure that they leave such technology at home.

Social Media

Social media and technology will play an ever increasing role in your children's lives; we have a duty to ensure they take full advantage of this but use it safely and appropriately for their age. We have been asked by the Governing Body and a number of parents to produce some guidelines offering support to help you ensure your child remains safe at home whilst using technology. These guidelines are in line with the advice given by social media sites. You will find these with this letter and I hope that they will be useful to you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Dismore, Headteacher

Computers and the Internet – A Parents' Guide

Your children are growing up in an exciting and fast paced modern world and it can sometimes be tough just to try to keep up with them! The following guidance is purely based on information gathered from various reputable resources and is there just to guide you should you want the support rather than to tell you how to parent your children!

Behaviour is behaviour whether it happens in the 'real' offline world or the 'virtual' online world and as parents, we need to think about how to set boundaries to help guide our children to behave well and reduce the risk of harm to them or others in both the offline and online worlds.

Although there is no official guidance about healthy amounts of screen time, the Central London Community Healthcare Trust (CLCH NHS) has produced a leaflet stating that screen time should be 'strictly limited' for children under 2 and restricted to 2 hours maximum each day for older children.

Microsoft has issued guidance for parents that states that children should have an adult with them to supervise their internet use until they are at least 10 years old. It's important to remember that there are a large number of wide ranging devices that can access the internet from iPods and iPads to phones, laptops and pcs – even TVs and games consoles! We need to make sure that, as parents, we know when and where our children are online and what they are doing and viewing.

Childnet International writes, 'children and young people...need support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely.' They have some fantastic information on their website and advise open communication between parents and children about the internet – helpfully, they include some useful conversation starters to help to get going!

The internet is a wonderful and exciting resource that can have a tremendous impact on all kinds of aspects of children's lives and with support of parents, it is hoped that our pupils will behave safely and with care to others in the online world.

CLCH screen time leaflet -

http://www.clch.nhs.uk/media/128453/screen_time_early_development.pdf

Great advice on this official site including practical technical support to help parents to keep children safe online - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/>

Age related Internet use advice from Microsoft - <http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/security/family-safety/childsafety-age.aspx>

Childnet International advice for parents - <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>