

17 September 2024



**Smestow Academy**  
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Mobile Phone**

As it is the start of a new academic year, I wanted to write to you to remind you of our school expectations for mobile phones at Smestow Academy. There is an outright ban on mobile phones. Any phone seen on school site between the hours of 8:15am and 3:00pm will be confiscated and placed in the school office for pupils to collect at the end of the day. Should any pupils have their phones confiscated on more than two occasions, we will request parents collect them. Educational research has shown that mobile phones have a detrimental effect on pupil outcomes. Please see below article printed in the guardian which shows the results of a study by the London school of economics. This study found that pupils at mobile phone free schools performed better in GCSE examinations and showed a sustained improvement in examination results. ([Banning mobile phones in schools can improve students' academic performance. This is how we know \(theconversation.com\)](#))

Mobile phones can lead to serious safeguarding or child protection issues. Mobile phones greatly increase the chances of peer-on-peer abuse, cyberbullying and data protection issues (for instance, taking or distributing images of other pupils or staff). Furthermore, a child in possession of a mobile phone on their way to and from school is making themselves a target for thieves.

If any child brings in a mobile phone to Smestow Academy, we will confiscate it in accordance with Section 94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This states that schools are permitted to confiscate pupils' property, including mobile phones and although we take the utmost care with confiscated property, the law clearly states that, in the unlikely event that a mobile phone is lost or damaged while in a school's possession, the school is not liable.

I thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Chamberlain', with a flourish at the end.

**Mr I Chamberlain**  
**Head Teacher**



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