

Brymore

experience to last a lifetime

Brymore Academy Cannington Somerset TA5 2NB
Tel: 01278 652369 email: office@brymoreacademy.co.uk website: www.brymoreacademy.co.uk
Stefan McHale, Headteacher

An academy sponsored by Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust

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Dear Parents/Guardians

The use of mobile phones in children's lives, particularly in schools and whether they should be restricted, has been a key area for debate over the past few months. I am sure that you would have seen many news articles calling for the ban of mobile phones in schools, and a need to reduce screen-time for our young people; to reduce and mitigate the risks of harmful online behaviour, and improve key social skills lost to the COVID-pandemic.

Traditionally, at Brymore, we have allowed boys to use their mobile phones in and around the school site for the main purpose of boarders being able to contact home when required. However, as online technology has become more advanced, and the risks to young people are ever-increasing, schools across the Country are reviewing how mobile phones are used in their setting including Brymore, in line with guidance released by the Department for Education in February 2024.

We understand that a world without online technology is no longer viable, and that devices are required for huge parts of children's education including access to timetables, homework, and for research purposes. However, at Brymore, we pride ourselves on producing well rounded, polite young men who are confident in their ability to speak to new people, offer help and support to others, and engage in new challenges with resilience, resourcefulness, and responsibility. At Brymore, we feel currently that mobile phone usage is hindering this, and that boys are choosing more often to seek comfort in their mobile phones than converse with one another.

A key responsibility for us as parents and schools is to ensure that we educate young people around how to stay safe online and to empower our boys to understand what healthy screen time looks like. Overleaf, you will find an outline of the proposals to change mobile phone use at Brymore academy.

With this proposal in mind, I would be grateful if you could take some time to complete the survey around mobile phone use at Brymore below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/tgsY86r3a7>

If you have any further feedback, questions, or queries around the use of mobile phones in schools, please email office@brymoreacademy.co.uk who will ensure that your contact reaches a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



STEFAN MCHALE
Headteacher