

"We are committed to inclusion and ensuring no child or family is left behind."



Friday, 5 April 2019

Abraham Moss Community School

Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5UF

Tel: 0161 219 6699 Fax: 0161 721 4973

admin@abrahammoss.manchester.sch.uk

www.abrahammoss.manchester.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Mobile Phone & 'Man Bag' Ban from Tuesday 23rd April 2019

I am writing to inform you that when we return to school on Tuesday, 23rd April after the Easter Holiday the school will implement a complete ban on the use of mobile phones by all pupils on school premises.

I have consulted with staff and members of the Governing Body and they are fully supportive of this change in policy. This letter attempts to explain to parents and pupils the reasons for taking such drastic action.

As a school we educate all pupils on various aspects of e-Safety, specifically how they can keep themselves safe online and how they can use mobile technology responsibly. However, despite our comprehensive coverage of these topics far too many pupils choose to disregard our guidance and by doing so they place themselves and others at risk.

My colleagues spend a disproportionate amount of their time resolving conflicts that occur between pupils due to what they place on social media outside of school hours. The school is a place of learning and members of the governing body and staff want the school to be a safe place for pupils to learn, thrive and develop.

Resolving conflict which occurs outside of school hours whilst young people are under the care and protection of their parents is not the responsibility of the school, it is the responsibility of parents and carers. The school will support you in doing this, but we will not do your job for you. If your child cannot use mobile technology responsibly and safely following the rule of British law, they should not be allowed access to this technology.

It is the role of parents and carers to safeguard their children outside of school hours. Parents and carers have a legal duty to do this and I know many of our parents do this very well. However, far too many parents and carers do not know what their child posts on social media sites, nor do they monitor their child's online activity at home. Parents and carers who fail to do this are not fully safeguarding their children.

Last week it was brought to my attention that a significant number of parents and carers were sharing the live footage of the massacre that took place at the Al-Noor Mosque New in Christchurch, Zealand.



We are utterly appalled that some parents think it is appropriate to share this footage with their own children via a family WhatsApp group. Some of these children have then chosen to share it amongst their friends via social media and we have carried out investigations to identify which pupils have this footage as well as the parents and carers who have shared the footage with children.

Anyone who does this is committing a criminal offence and the names and addresses of children and families who have done this have been passed onto PC Broughton from Greater Manchester Police.

If you want your child to bring their mobile phone to school so that you can contact them on their way to and from school that is fine. However, before they enter the school premises the phone must be switched off, put on silent or airplane mode.

If your child's phone is heard or seen in school, then the following will happen.

1. An adult will ask for your child to hand over their phone. If your child does so immediately, and without argument then the adult will hand the phone back to your child at the end of the school day.
2. If your child argues with the adult, halts teaching and learning, or holds up the adult from their work then a senior member of staff will take your child to an office and ask them for a second time to hand over their phone. If your child hands over the phone parents will be contacted and expected to come in and collect the phone at the end of the day.

You may be interested to know that one of the main owners of Microsoft, Bill Gates did not allow his children to have a mobile phone until they were 14 years of age, even then, he limited the amount of time they were allowed to use them each day. This should tell you something about what he thinks about the dangers of mobile technology are for children.

Why are we banning 'Man Bags'?

Quite simply because a 'man bag' does not have the capacity to hold your son's equipment for school. The focus of school is learning, not making fashion statements. Whilst the development of a young person's identity and individuality is important when your child attends our school, they are expected to focus on developing their minds. Thus, the same confiscation rules will apply for 'man bags' as for mobile phones.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. G. B. Houghton
Headteacher