



# MANOR COURT Community Primary School

*incorporating* Manor Court Early Years Centre

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode    Assistant Head Teacher Mrs G Terry

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Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Reference: Mobile Phones onsite at Manor Court Community Primary School**

We place the online safety and safeguarding of each Manor Court Community Primary School pupil as our greatest priority. We work hard to teach age appropriately online safety strategies from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 and acknowledge the great work that many parents do at home to encourage and support their children's safe use of mobile phones and tools to access the internet.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones in primary schools is now a national concern; it is no longer simply a problem for secondary school educators, parents of teenagers and secondary aged pupils. We have recently become even more aware of Manor Court children using mobile phones inappropriately and dangerously towards themselves and others. This dangerous use includes some older children sending offensive messages to each other whilst at home and in some rare situations passing inappropriate images to each other that have been taken within the home environment. These actions (even from children who would not dream of misbehaving or being unkind in school) are now impacting on the education of some children within the school and have potentially ruined friendships.

We do not want these issues to spread even further into school life and from today are taking the following assertive action to protect the safety of each child. These new steps are not intended to be punitive but to protect the innocence and safeguard each child. We know that parents trust our judgment and because of this we will have the support of parents in taking these steps to safeguard the children. Please do speak to Mr Talmage, Mr Clode or Mrs Terry if clarification is required.

There will be no exceptions to these new expectations and if your child needs their phone to communicate to a parent at the end of the day, it is each child's responsibility to ensure they follow the guidance, so as not to have the phone confiscated. As always if communication to a parent is required during the day, children can request that this happens via the school office.

We must state that we would prefer for each child to leave their mobile phone at home.

### **From Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

If your child is required to bring a mobile phone to school, they must be responsible to take the following actions and agree to it remaining switched off throughout the school day and until they cross the threshold of the school at the end of the day.

If they do not abide by the steps outlined below, they will have their mobile phone confiscated by any member of Manor Court staff and it will be given to Mr Talmage, Mr Clode or Mrs Terry to take to the school office.

The mobile phone **will only be returned to their parent or carer** when they collect it from the school office at the end of the school day and this must be during the offices opening hours. If the office is closed, it will remain securely kept until being **handed to a parent or carer during office opening hours the following school day**.

Confiscated mobile phones **will not at any time be returned** to a child but only to a parent or carer who comes to collect it.

## **Mobile phone guidance**

- Children must hand their switched off mobile phone to the school office, their class teacher, or Learning Support Assistant as soon as they enter the school building. It will then be placed in a secure location for the duration of the day.
- Staff at the end of the school day will return the switched off phone to its owner and if the child is going straight home, they will not switch it on until they have left the school grounds. If it is switched on before leaving the school grounds, it will be confiscated.
- Children attending an after-school enrichment club or wrap around care, will keep the phone switched off and hand it to the member of staff who is supervising the club. Their phone will be returned at the end of the session and children will not switch it on until they have left the school grounds.
- If a child is believed to have not handed their phone to their adult at the start of the day, the child will be asked to hand it into their appropriate adult and if they do not agree, school bags will be checked.

Each child has been informed of this new guidance during our whole school assembly today. We would also strongly suggest that each parent checks their child's phone with even more regularity.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Talmage  
Headteacher



Alan Clode  
Deputy Head & Inclusion Leader