

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **How are the devices going to be handed in?**

Devices will be collected upon arrival to school, following taxi drop off before entering the building.

Learners should have their devices ready to hand in and switched off. Staff will ask learners to hand in their devices (anything with data) We are aware that in excess of 90% of the learner cohort, has a device of some sort.

Devices will be placed into zip up bags and placed in a classroom box which will be locked and stored away. A limited staff group will have access to the devices.

If learners are choosing to bring their devices in, they do so entirely at their own risk. (This has always been the case.)

For the first few weeks, there will be a higher presence of staffing at the entry points to support the transition and device amnesty. (Senior Leadership Team, Behaviour and Welfare Team & Key Stage Lead's)

Umbrellas will be used in bad weather to support staff collecting the devices.

Residential learners will be requested to follow the same process of hand in.

Devices will be checked for marks/damage.

### **Will learners be permitted their devices for independent travel?**

Learners will be permitted use of their mobile devices for timetabled independent sessions, (but not gaming devices), in particular when using public transport or walking in the community. (Year 9 and above). Where there is a member of staff supervising, they will not be re-distributed.

Learners will not be given devices to walk between sites independently. This is because of the number of staff that walk between the two sites and training for learners on keeping safe during this time and normal safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Devices will be returned to class staff by SLT just for independent travel before leaving.

Class staff will need to confirm by Friday morning who is expected to be going on independent travel.

### **What if someone refuses to hand their device in?**

Learners will be asked and encouraged three times to hand in their device and all positive choices acknowledged and reinforced.

Learners unwilling to part with their devices will be offered a period of reflection.

There will be natural consequences applied to support learner understanding. Staff should continue to request the device be handed in and any of the permitted devices visible, will be prompted to be put away if visible/lesson change over etc.

Parents will be contacted on the same day where a learner continues to choose not to follow the policy and process and invited to attend a meeting. This will continue until such time learners understand that this is necessary.

Any absences and school refusal will be supported through the safeguarding team, SENCO and Assistant Heads.

The Local Authority is aware of the introduction to the new policy. It is not our intention to end any placement as a result of not handing in a device. However, the Local Authorities do request updates on learner progress and engagement.

### **Does the school have insurance in the event of damages?**

In the unlikely event of damage caused by school, we will have communicated this to parents/carers to inform. Support to fix an item damaged by the school will be offered.

### **How will we know whose device belongs to who?**

Each device will be placed in a bag with the learner's name on. Items of high value should be left at home. Individual bags named will be placed in an individual class box and these will be locked away.

### **What about early leavers/ and those attending lessons across the different sites?**

Devices will be stored from the main site they (learners) are dropped off and picked up from. If leaving early, SLT who will be on a rota, will provide access to the devices and our admin staff will support these being handed back to learners. At The Rectory during lunch, they may be locked in the safe for the interim period.

### **What happens in the event of foul weather?**

Staff will have access to umbrellas. Where feasible or necessary, boxes may be returned to classes for staff to hand out as learners have exited to go to taxi's (but not if they are waiting for them in reception or any other part of the school).

### **Will smartwatches be permitted?**

If they do **not** have data enabled, smartwatches can be worn. We are trusting learners; if they are using smartwatches to not access data, for gaming, the internet etc, we will follow the same process as above.

### **How can learners continue to listen to music?**

Learners will have access to music via their chromebooks. Any learner with bluetooth headphones will be able to connect to the music stream. A wide range of music will be available (any song to have ever been in the top 40 chart) however, despite learner requests to have music where there are explicit lyrics, this will not be possible during the school day and will be at the discretion of parents in their personal time. A learner may use a personal MP3 player (also available through option 3 of the devices recommended) and the decision on what music is listened to will be governed by parents/carers.

### **Some learners feel they will have difficulty in handing in their devices as they and parents/carers use these to regulate or because they don't agree with the school's policy.**

The new process/policy has been explained to learners during an assembly and learners have had their own Q&A (answers provided to staff and parents/carers). In partnership with parents and carers, and class staff, learners will need to consider what other strategies they can use to support any anxiety they may have and how these could be built into the learners IBP's and learner profile strategies.

BWT and KSL's will follow up with individual learners/class staff where this might be difficult.

**What can a learner do who is worried about being able to make contact with their parents or friends?**

**LEARNERS WILL BE PERMITTED THE USE OF A 'DUMBPHONE' (OUR PREFERENCE BEING FROM THE NOKIA 3310/3210 RANGE) DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO FURTHER SUPPORT ANXIETY AND THE CLASS CHARTER WILL BE IN PLACE TO PROVIDE CLARITY OF USAGE TIMES WHICH SHOULD BE ADHERED TO BY LEARNERS AND STAFF.**

The type of phone that will be permitted can be seen here - the last one also enabling music and the most competitively priced.

[https://www.hmd.com/en\\_int/nokia-3310?sku=A00028228](https://www.hmd.com/en_int/nokia-3310?sku=A00028228)

[https://www.hmd.com/en\\_gb/nokia-3210?sku=1GF025CPD4L02](https://www.hmd.com/en_gb/nokia-3210?sku=1GF025CPD4L02)

<https://www.ttfone.com/products/ttfone-tt160-vodafone-payg-mobilephone>

We understand that there may be points in the day where learners feel anxious about a situation and as a result might prompt them to want to speak with parents/families. Where this is the case, with learners not opting in to the option above, they will be afforded the opportunity as soon as feasible to communicate with parents/carers using a school phone. Similarly to above, where learners are feeling anxious or worried we will work with them to use strategies to manage this. It is typical not to be in touch with children during the school day and to foster this independence whilst here would be useful.

Contacting friends that do not attend school, will be something learners can engage with post school hours.

**How will we manage learners accessing websites on their chromebooks?**

We are working towards getting an application on chromebooks that will enable teachers to see what sites learners are using on their computers and enable them to close any pages they are individually viewing that they should not be using. This will be teacher led and supported by class staff. We are working towards making more safe platforms available on the chromebooks such as Cool Maths as an example.

**How will we manage learners accessing their devices if they don't hand them in?**

Staff should continue to follow the above, be consistent, be clear and be fair. Where there is persistent difficulty with a learner unwilling to give their device to a member of staff, you can request support as per the usual routes, but also allow the learner a short period of time to feel they are able to make a positive choice in support of the policy.

Parents should be communicated with by phone as soon as possible and requested they support a communication to the learner to hand their device in.

**Where this is not supported, this should be escalated to KSL in the first instance and then Assistant Heads who will phone home and request a parent meeting.**

**What about Pokemon club?**

Pokemon Club will still go ahead, we know who the learners are that attend this club, a sheet name will be created and the phones provided to enable this club to go ahead. We are also in discussion with staff about other possible clubs that could be run at lunch times to enable learners to have more sensory input. Staff are currently reviewing what these options could include.

## LEARNER & PARENT QUESTIONS:

### **Why is the school putting the expectation to manage this onto the parents to deal with over the summer holidays instead of it being school?**

This is a shared collaborative responsibility. We have carefully mapped out and considered how to introduce this to learners and have worked with colleagues to understand where this may be particularly difficult. We have already been in discussion with some parents/carers and invite others who feel it may be difficult to contact us to discuss further. We have provided the Parent Forum to further support communication around this topic. Some parents have made contact with us directly and we can set up further calls to discuss alternative strategies to support learners who may be anxious or particularly attached to their devices where needed.

### **How will learners who don't have a voice to communicate aside from using their mobile phones be supported to be able to?**

We recognise that this will be difficult in some instances.

Our SEND team is already aware of where reasonable adjustments need to be applied and for other learners who have become used to this method of communication, we are considering what alternatives can be offered. We are keen to work with parents/carers to understand what those alternatives can be and have already put measures in place where either staff or parents/carers, or learners themselves have had a worry about what this will look like. It can include (but this is not an exhaustive list,) the use of a code word or colour card if they are finding something particularly difficult, liaising with their trusted adult or BWT, having some time out, a communication slot, a period of reflection. In addition to this, having considered the views of some parents and learners, and as a result, **LEARNERS WILL BE PERMITTED THE USE OF A 'DUMBPHONE' (OUR PREFERENCE BEING FROM THE NOKIA 3310/3210 RANGE) DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO FURTHER SUPPORT ANXIETY AND THE CLASS CHARTER WILL BE IN PLACE TO PROVIDE CLARITY OF USAGE TIMES WHICH SHOULD BE ADHERED TO BY LEARNERS AND STAFF.**

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### **Can we understand how this will look for learners when moving between sites in terms of safety?**

We will continue to follow our safeguarding process for this. Learners are signed out of the building and need to sign in upon their arrival to the other site. Colleagues are all aware of the travel time to complete a transition between the sites and the non arrival of a learner would trigger an alert which would essentially 'kick in' safeguarding protocols of checking the whereabouts of a learner. We have several staff who also transition between the sites regularly and learners are supported with training for independent travel, more of which will be provided in September. In the first half term, we will have an increased staff presence and the gates/exits will be included in the duty team rota's to increase vigilance across the two sites. Whilst it can feel like a huge risk which we understand, statistically speaking in the last

two years, we have had very few (under 3) issues when transitioning between issues between sites. We will continue reaffirming learning and re-enforcing community rules and awareness. Where learners are more vulnerable they will be supported to transition.

**Friday afternoon independent travel - how do they know what the time is?**

Where an adult is not with them on planned independent travel they will be given their phones (not other devices) back in advance to allow them to use this for safety reasons. Learners are not permitted to be alone completely (paired up as a minimum) so we would always make certain that between them someone has access to the time/a phone.

**What if they start their day at Manor Farm and finish their day at Rectory?**

Devices will be stored at the site at which they are dropped off and collected. If learners are being collected by a parent/carer they would need to inform our reception team and collect the device from the site the learner was dropped off at.

**Some learners use their mobile phones to access parents particularly if they are heightened or anxious. How will they do that?**

We are always looking to try to encourage learners to manage their anxieties using a wide variety of strategies that promote social skills and personal growth. Our preference is that learners achieve this by working with the adults who are in school to support this. However, in listening to the feedback given by learners and parents/carers, **LEARNERS WILL BE PERMITTED THE USE OF A 'DUMBPHONE' (OUR PREFERENCE BEING FROM THE NOKIA 3310/3210 RANGE) DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO FURTHER SUPPORT ANXIETY AND THE CLASS CHARTER WILL BE IN PLACE TO PROVIDE CLARITY OF USAGE TIMES WHICH SHOULD BE ADHERED TO BY LEARNERS AND STAFF.**

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**It would be helpful to understand how we are planning to use the chromebooks to fill the gap of the devices.**

Chromebooks will have access to a music site, and access to some learning games will be provided on these devices. We are exploring an increase of clubs during social times and equipment at The Rectory site for our older learners such as an outdoor gym and table tennis. Chromebooks are smoothwall enabled which allows us to block and monitor online activity where required.

**My child feels it is unfair and they are being punished, they have always followed the rules.**

This is not a punishment, this is about the safety of learners and we are following government guidance on this. It is in part about the misuse of devices, (not solely); attachment to devices preventing and inhibiting learning and a growing number of concerns linked to online safety that is beyond our control because we are unable to manage and monitor the individual use of devices and nor do we want to. Within the primary setting it has been working well, learners follow the Device Charter quite consistently but this changes as learners move through the school. As mentioned, we are following national guidance and

there is a strong expectation that as a school we manage risks linked to online safety, cyber bullying etc. We will do our best to convey to learners that this is not a punishment and welcome parent/carer input into communicating the same message.

**Why are you doing it now? There is already a lot going on.**

We don't think there is ever an easy time to bring change to a community that finds managing change difficult. We reintroduced the Devices Charter during online safety week back in February which we communicated out to everybody and have been working towards since then. We felt that transitioning is all about change and what September will look like so it felt fitting to tie it in with that.

We have avoided a blanket policy for as long as possible, but in view of the new government guidance and to align with the other schools in the group, we felt that the time had come to progress this at Gretton too. The safety of our learners remains our priority and this focus is around the safety of them all.

**Will you be considering more flexibility for sixth form?**

There is a relaxed policy for sixth form as they are preparing for adulthood and what life starts to look like independently so they will be expected to follow the Devices Charter - any misuse will be challenged. Staff will be modelling the safe use of devices in this area.

**The first couple of weeks back in September will be hard, the reality is that the children will be feeling more dysregulated, what will you do around this?**

There will be an increased staff presence during unstructured times.

There will be SLT and BWT presence and support for class staff and learners who need it.

There will be a reflection period for learners, we are not going into battle! We will use our Positive Behaviour Policy and our relational practice, working with learners, you as parents and carers and we will be consistent and fair.

**How do we make sure they have it to go home as my child is likely to forget?**

Devices will be returned to learners by staff who have to sign learner's out of school. The returning of the device will form part of this process. Class staff can also support to become part of the routine.

**Are we educating learners in preparation for post 16 in terms of safe use?**

Our curriculum includes online safety and we regularly support learners beyond this through assemblies, activities, themed weeks. During the school holidays we plan to share more information with parents and carers about how they can ensure safety within the home also, in relation to online access and safety.

**How are we positively supporting learners that willfully comply with handing in their devices? Will there be recognition of this?**

We recognise the importance of this and are exploring how this can be incentivised. We will come back to you in September with confirmation of what this will look like.

**What if there is a safeguarding concern with the member of staff that they are supposed to go through to speak to parents/carers?**

There are several ways to alert staff to a concern you may have regarding another member of staff. You can send an email to [worried@Grettonschool.com](mailto:worried@Grettonschool.com) or speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team or another member of the school body who will be happy to help you.

**Can we still charge our devices at school?**

Devices shouldn't be being charged at school at all. Devices not being used at school, shouldn't need to be charged.

**Why can't students be trusted to have the phone in their bag? Especially those that reliably access their lessons.**

We won't check bags, but a device handed in is safer locked away than it is in a school bag. If a learner uses a device that they have said they do not have on their person, the same process above will be followed.

**How can I share pictures I have created on my home devices?**

You can email these to your school address and show them to your classmates.

**I like to have help with my games from my friends during break, how can they help me if we are not allowed devices in school and I can't see them outside of school?**

You can play a game with your friends, on your device as long as it is not wifi/data enabled and the Devices Charter is followed.

**Can we access YouTube on the chromebooks?**

There are many known risks with videos that can be accessed by YouTube. We cannot provide access and monitoring of usage for this and therefore it is not usable in school. This is very common amongst schools.

**Are you aware that the Geneva Convention of 1921 states that collective punishment is a war crime?**

This is not a punishment.

**If the phones are the learners property does the school have the legal right to hold on to them?**

Yes, a school does have the right to hold on to devices, A school also has the right to instruct them not being in school altogether.