



## CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Frances Mary Buss Foundation

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Main School:

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Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

At Camden School for Girls we recognise that mobile phones are now very much part of everyday life. However, student safety and learning are of paramount importance. Although the internet is undoubtedly a valuable learning resource, mobile phone use can be a serious distraction from learning during the school day. Within school the use of our own ICT systems provides a means of enhancing learning through the use of technology, so that students have no need to use a mobile phone at all while in school.

From September 2018 the use of mobile phones will not be allowed in school and the following rules will be enforced:

- Mobile phones must be **switched off and put away** at all times, any phone seen or heard will be confiscated.
- Phones that are confiscated will be returned to students at the end of the day in the first instance, although should there be a second occurrence a call will be made home with the requirement that a parent comes to collect the phone on their child's behalf.
- The restriction is in place at all times while students are in the grounds of the school building, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the day. Phones should be put away before students enter the school grounds and not accessed until they have left the site.
- Should students need to use a phone at the end of the day to contact parents with any concerns or for collection following school based activities they are asked to use the main reception phone.
- Years 12 and 13 students are allowed to use their phones but only in the 6<sup>th</sup> form common room. Their phones must be switched off and put away in all other parts of the school and in the school grounds.

We have made the decision to ban the use of mobile phones within the school because of the negative effect on students' learning. The decision has not been taken lightly.

Recent research indicates that young people do not have the skills to navigate social media and phone use appropriately and are very poor at limiting and regulating their phone use. It contributes to heightened anxiety around what other people are sharing or could share on social media, and further excludes students who may not regularly interact much with social media. It feeds into poor self-esteem as they are regularly exposed to the best versions of people's lives/presentation of their lives, and compare this with their own.



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It also means that young people are hyper-connected to their peers and this puts enormous pressure on those relationships: it isn't necessary to be connected to friends at all times and to have constant access to/updates on what our friends are doing.

In addition there is concern about the connection between phone use and the amount of time children interact with screens, and lack of focus and attention.

Schools should be a safe place in which people have a break from their phones and social media; this break will then promote more regulated use of phones outside of school.

Please discuss this further with your child and thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Kitcatt  
Headteacher