

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

23rd March 2021

Dear All,

As some kind of normality slowly returns some familiar and “old-school” challenges are back with us; specifically mobile phones.

This whole community including governors agrees there is no need for them in school and they bring no added value but instead many risks some very serious and damaging to children.

There is and can be no point in us having filters and controls for our IT if any child with a smart phone can access anything they choose on the internet?

Children who travel independently are encouraged for their safety to carry one and then reliably hand it in and they do.

Children and young people in very specific circumstances and on a case by case basis have been offered very basic phones that are neither smart nor do they have access to the internet for example one child’s Mum was in hospital and they were anxious to be readily in touch.

Children are never denied access to school phones if they need to call home and you all have our numbers so we are readily accessible to you at home.

The truth is many children just want a phone to play with and to access social media and so on and they have ample opportunity to do that at home: school is not the place for it.

Finally and respectfully but honestly many of our young people struggle to make good choices and to strike the right balance without our help as teachers and parents and one can readily imagine the trouble and chaos that would ensue if every child here had ready access to a smart phone...

Michael

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