



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to remind you of our school's position regarding the use of mobile phones and smart devices.

We appreciate that many parents like their children to have a mobile device so they can get in touch with them before or after school, or to track their location for safety and reassurance. However, **please be assured that it is not necessary for students to have access to their phone during the school day**, and we ask for your support in upholding our rules around this.

If you do need to get in touch with your child during the school day, this should be done via the school office or their Year Manager, who will ensure any important messages are passed on promptly.

We would also like to clarify that **if a student feels unwell during the school day, they should not contact parents directly**. Instead, they must speak to a member of staff, who will assess the situation and contact parents if needed. When students message parents directly, it can cause unnecessary worry - especially when parents are at work and do not have the full picture.

Mobile phones present a significant risk of unnecessary distraction, disruption, and diversion from learning. We owe it to our children to create an environment where they can be fully present, focused, and safe. For this reason, the use of mobile phones and smart devices is strictly prohibited during the school day.

This approach is supported by the Department for Education's guidance titled *"Mobile phones in schools – Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day"*, which reinforces the importance of limiting phone use to protect learning, behaviour, and wellbeing.

All schools operate a behaviour policy that aligns with legal responsibilities regarding the safety and welfare of pupils. This policy is essential for maintaining high standards of behaviour, enabling teachers to deliver the curriculum effectively, and ensuring that the school remains a calm and safe place for all. In line with this policy, staff have the legal authority to discipline pupils, including confiscating property when necessary. This means that if a student is found with a phone during the school day, it will be confiscated.

TANFIELD SCHOOL
HEADTEACHER Steven Clough BSc (Hons) NPQH

Tanfield Lea Road, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 8AY

enquiries@tanfieldschool.co.uk

01207 232 881

@TanfieldSchool @TanfieldSchool

www.tanfieldschool.co.uk

In certain cases, the school may permanently ban students from bringing a device to school if:

- The student misuses their device in school.
- Online or social media incidents occur which involve others or bring the school's name into disrepute.
- Inappropriate video footage/voicemails that occur in or outside of school while the student is wearing school uniform or is identifiable as a Tanfield School student.

Where a ban has been imposed, students may be subject to random spot checks to ensure compliance. If a banned item is found, or it is discovered that the student has attempted to conceal it or pass it to another pupil, more serious sanctions will be applied in line with the school behaviour policy.

Thank you once again for your continued support in helping us provide a focused, respectful, and safe learning environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Jones
Deputy Headteacher

