



Feedback from Mobile Phone Survey for Parents and Carers

Statistics from the survey

- 459 parents/carers responded to the survey
- 155 people left a comment
- Over 75% of parents/carers know the password for their child's phone
- Most parents check their child's phone when they have a concern rather than on a routine basis
- About 75% respondents reported that their child DOES have a routine for switching their phones off.
- Over half of parents/carers said their child does have their phone in their bedroom overnight – but some later commented that either the phone is being used as an alarm or access has been restricted using a parent-controlled app.
- Just over a quarter of parents/carers reported that their child has received unwanted messages or images, while only around 5% know that their child has sent them.
- Around 38% said that phone use causes family disagreements often or occasionally.
- The main concern that parents reported was the length of time that their child is spending on their phone. This stood out as being parents' primary concern. This was followed by access to online bullying, access to inappropriate materials, increased anxiety linked to social media and contact with/from unknown people.
- Regarding mobile phone contact between parents/carers and students during the school day, just over 40% of parents report that they have contacted their child often or occasionally, while 33% have received contact from their children often/occasionally.
- The overwhelming majority of parents do not feel that they need any support with their child's phone use – with a number going on to share excellent strategies that they are already employing to manage this.

We have picked out some common themes, questions, or suggestions from the comments from parents/carers.

Parents asked whether safe use of mobile phones is covered in our curriculum

In PSHE lessons phone use and staying safe along with the overuse of phones is explored and re-visited when topics such as body image, effective relationships, and pornography are delivered. This is reinforced in assemblies with statistical analysis given from national research.

Much of the school homework or home learning is undertaken online, with students using their phones to access and complete this

Parents feel that this contributes towards the amount of time that students are spending on their phones. This is one of the reasons why we want to reduce other unnecessary phone use during the school day. When we first introduced Edulink and the use of online platforms for completing homework we (possibly incorrectly) assumed that students may be using a shared family computer, tablet, or laptop to complete their work. Students do not have to do this work on a phone. The LRC is open until 5pm and includes a full suite of computers that can be used for homework. The maths department staff a room after school on

Thursdays where students can complete Sparx homework. Directors of Studies also have a rota of computer rooms that can be accessed in guidance time for homework completion. While EduLink is used as an electronic diary or organiser, not all the tasks being recorded on EduLink are screen-based.

Some students require access to their phones for medical reasons.

For the monitoring of blood sugar levels, for example. We are aware of who these students are, and they would ALWAYS be allowed to use their phone for medical purposes. This is essential phone use.

Parents shared concerns that some teachers allow/support phone use in lessons.

Where this happens is usually for a very good reason e.g. to photograph work, photograph notes from the board, to complete subject related quizzes through online resources. We are asking teachers to find other ways to get the same or similar outcomes as we feel that if we want to stop the use of mobile phones in school, we need to have clear boundaries that are upheld consistently across the school. The only exception that we are considering is Photography – most students do not own a digital camera as phones perform this function exceptionally well. The Performing Arts Department sometimes needs KS4 students to record themselves playing pieces and may ask students to use their phones from time to time. Use of phones in Photography and Performing Arts lessons will be closely monitored by the teachers who will ensure that phones are switched off and put away at the end of the lesson.

Security travelling to and from school

Many parents want their children to carry phones to and from school for safety reasons. We support this. There is no intention for CWLC to ban mobile phone devices, but we do want them to be switched off on arrival at school and to remain off until the end of the school day.

Contact between students and their parents/carers during the school day

40% of parents report that they do sometimes send their child messages during the school day and a third stated that their child attempts to contact them.

We would be very naïve if we thought we could completely control this. We would like students to be focussed on learning during the school day and would respectfully request that parents/carers limit messages sent to essential messages only, e.g. a change in plans for getting home at the end of the school day. When students turn their phones back on at 3.20pm they will be able to pick up this message and respond/react accordingly. If a student is worried or upset in school they can speak to a teacher, and if appropriate, the member of staff will allow them to use a school phone to call you. We want our students to be able to switch off from all notifications and distractions for the hours that they are in school. We appreciate that our main phone line can be very busy but urgent messages should be directed through our receptionists who will get a note hand-delivered to a student where necessary.

Many parents shared strategies that they are using at home to limit phone use and/or internet access

Some parents have set clear simple behavioural boundaries e.g. no phones out during mealtimes. Others have pursued more technical avenues including:

Google Family Link: <https://families.google/familylink/>

This allows you to do the following:

- Set screen time limits - many parents mentioned setting a cut-off time in the evenings
- Guide children towards age-appropriate content – approve or block apps that your child wants to download.
- Manage and secure your child's account including being able to manage their password.
- Stay connected – allows you to see where different family members are, and how much battery life is remaining on their devices

Microsoft Safety: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/family-safety>

- Set screen time limits for specific apps or devices including Xbox
- Apply filters for apps and games
- Apply filters for web and search content

Quotes from parents:

"We have Google family link and therefore due to parental controls my child only has use of their phone for 3 hours a day and cannot use it between 9pm and 6am."

"We have Google family link installed on his phone and on both parents' phones so our child's phone is limited to the hours we set and the apps that we allow, with time constraints on these apps. We are also able to see where they are and what state their phone is in i.e. battery life. I have recommended this app to many friends who have young children with phones, they all have agreed that it is a simple and effective way to monitor the phone."

"We have our router set up to block over 18 content for the entire house but many parents wouldn't know how to do this."