

18th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the weekend, you may have seen some press reports relating to Ormiston Academies Trust approach to mobile phones in schools. I am writing to you to clarify Flegg's current position and the direction that the Trust is taking.

Some OAT secondary schools are already taking steps to become completely smartphone-free this academic year. Another school has been implementing this phone-free policy for several years. Ormiston Academies Trust's position is that having smartphones in schools can have several negative impacts; they are a distraction in the classroom and so hinder learning, and there is significant evidence that they do not support good mental health among children and young people. OAT schools prioritise teaching, learning, good behaviour and children's mental health, and we therefore believe it is important to limit mobile phone use in schools.

At Flegg, we have a 'never seen, never heard' policy. Students are allowed to have their phones in school but must have them turned off and not used during school hours. This has been our policy for many years and will continue to be our approach this year.

Further ahead, Ormiston Academies Trust has been clear that we – in common with all their schools – can take the required time to consider the options, and that any decisions as to the approach we take will be made at a school level in consultation with you as parents and carers. That means we will involve you and your child in that process and we want to hear what you think.

I hope that is helpful clarification but do let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Bennett
Principal