



# **The Cedars Primary School**

## **Newsletter**

Friday 23rd February 2024

### **The Use of Mobile Phones in Schools**

On Monday the Government released a document entitled 'Mobile phones in schools' which provides guidance for schools on how children use mobile phones in schools. You may have seen some coverage of the new guidance on the news and social media this week.

There were some interesting facts contained within the document:

- By the age of 12, 97% of children own a mobile phone
- The majority (63%) of 8-11 year olds use social media and messaging apps, rising to 93% for children between 12 and 15 years old — many of these are not designed for younger children
- The use of mobile phones in school has already been prohibited or restricted in one in four countries worldwide (France, The Netherlands, some Australian states)
- Screen time can displace positive activities such as playing and socialising in person with friends
- One in five children have experienced bullying online as a result of using chatrooms or other social sites

The new guidance from the government has four options that it suggests for schools, we currently operate the second one, 'Mobile phone handed in on arrival'. This policy has worked well in the school for a number of years and children almost always follow the guidelines and either put their phone in the bus bag or hand their phone in upon arrival at school.

We do not feel the need to change our policy to banning mobile phones entirely as so many children use them to keep themselves occupied on what can be quite long bus and taxi journeys before and after school. However there have been some instances of poor behaviour linked to the use of mobile phones on buses that have led to Hounslow Transport taking the decision to ban the use of phones on certain buses. In order for your child to continue to use their phone on the bus or taxi please ensure:

- Phones are not used for taking photos during journeys to and from school
- Phones are not used to record other children or adults during journeys
- If children are listening to music, watching a video or playing games with sound they are wearing earphones
- Phones are not used to play music or other media that upsets other children eg listening to music with swearing or discriminatory language

### **Searching pupils**

In order to ensure that mobile phones are not used in school we are allowed to search children and this is endorsed by the Government.

'Headteachers, or staff they authorise, have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.' DfE 2024

If you have any questions or suggestions about the use of mobile phones in school please either phone (0208 230 0015) or email [help@cedars.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:help@cedars.hounslow.sch.uk).



FREE  
WORKSHOP

# Cost of Living Toolkit

Equip yourself to *Survive the Squeeze* with this interactive workshop.

Get up to date with the latest news and updates that affect your finances.

Learn about schemes and support that can help and how to access them.

Hear about some quick wins to help you spend less and maximise your income.

In partnership with



**London Borough  
of Hounslow**

**Tuesday 27 Feb, 1-2:30 PM**

Community Hub  
Feltham Assembly Hall  
Hounslow Road  
TW14 9DN

**Register for the workshop**  
**[themoneycourse.org/colt](https://themoneycourse.org/colt)**

*"A really positive, helpful session!"*



Crosslight Advice is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1163306) and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (715066).