



Wednesday, 14 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Results of the Autumn 2024 Survey Regarding Smartphones and Moving Forward

Technology enhances our lives in so many positive areas and smartphones have impacted each of our lives in various ways. Through consultation, daily experience, reviewing practice in other schools, observation and a review of all workable options we have decided that Brentside High School will enhance our status and model of being a smartphone free school. In its simplest interpretation, this means students will not have access to smartphones during the school day. They will be allowed to bring their phones to school but will not have access during the school day.

We have reviewed the various models available to schools, and we will be communicating how we will move forward with you during the week beginning Monday, 19 May. Thank you to all those families that participated in the survey in the Autumn term. I wanted to share some of the key feedback from the surveys conducted with students, staff and families.

Staff Survey Feedback

83 members of the teaching staff took part in the survey

92% of staff feel that **social media** has a negative impact

98% of staff say that students use their smartphone in school

94% of staff feel that smartphones are not good for student **mental health**

94% of staff feel that smartphones are **not beneficial** in school

93% of staff feel students would make better **progress** without smartphones in school

94% of staff feel students' **mental health** would be better without smartphones in school

Student Survey Feedback

901 students were surveyed from every year group

40% of students use their phone for **5 hours** or more each day

53% of students say they use their phone until they are ready to **sleep**

41% of students **struggle** to get to **sleep** two or more times per week

21% of students get less than 6 hours **sleep on average**

21% of students have been negatively affected by **social media**

34% of students say their friends have been negatively impacted by **social media**

31% of students worry about how people may **respond** to them online

32% of students find it difficult to **control** how much they use their smartphone

Parents/Carers Feedback

210 responses were gathered from each group

26% of parents/carers say their child uses their smartphone for **5 hours** more **daily**

55% of parents/carers say their child uses their phone until they go to sleep

26% of parents/carers say their child **struggles to sleep** twice or more per week

35% of parents/carers say their child has been negatively impacted by **social media**

46% of parents/carers say their child's friends have been impacted by **social media**

69% of parents/carers say worry about how people may **respond** to their child online

65% of parents/carers agree their child uses their phone a lot

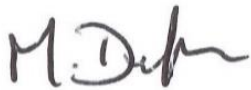
40% of parents/carers agree their child's **mental health** has been negatively impacted

Based on all the above feedback from key stakeholders (students, families and staff) it is reasonable to conclude the following:

- Smartphones are being used for significant proportions of the day by a high number of students.
- Among students the high usage of smartphones impacts on their lives being a contributing factor in negatively impacting the ability to sleep.
- A significant number of students struggle to control how much they use their smartphone.
- Students, staff and families feel that social media has a negative impact on students. This is recognised by many students and their friends.
- Almost half of families surveyed feel the mental health of their child is impacted.
- Nearly all staff feel the mental health of students would be improved without smartphones.
- Nearly all staff feel there is no benefit in having access to smartphones in school.
- Nearly all staff surveyed feel behaviour, focus and progress would be better for students

We will be in contact next week with some more information around what the smartphone solution looks like.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Duffy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Duffy
Deputy Headteacher