



# THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

*'Learning Together For The Future'*

Head Teacher  
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## **Keeping Safe**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to share some of the ways that we can continue to work together to help our students keep safe.

### **Phones and Social Media**

Using mobile phones and social media safely is something we spend a good deal of time on with our students, through our assembly and personal development curriculum. As parents you will know that phones are a central fixture in our children's lives now but that they can pose problems for young people if not used wisely.

Our approach to mobile phones at Ecclesbourne is that students do not use them in school. If a child has a phone with them in school and it is seen or heard they know it will be confiscated for a period of time. For this reason, we have very few incidents in school involving phones and so learning is not disrupted. Students benefit from being able to switch off from the distraction of constant notifications and they can concentrate on their lessons.

However, the time of our pastoral teams is often taken up with resolving problems caused by the misuse of phones and social media outside of school. As a parent, the boundaries you set for phone and internet use will depend on your child's age. Whatever their age, it is a good idea to sit down together with your child to agree some rules about how much time they spend online. For example, you might want to agree that they should not go online just before bed or use any devices at night, because this can affect their sleep. You can often set timers on devices to limit internet use and helping your child to learn how to manage this for themselves is important as they grow older. Encouraging your child to be open with you about their social media apps and keeping tabs on them is also advisable. You can also set up parental controls to stop your child from accessing harmful content online, but your child may well learn how to get round these. That is why it is important to make sure your child can make good decisions for themselves. The following link provide advice to help you with this.

[E-Safety | Ecclesbourne School](#)

### **Lighter evenings**

As we approach the summer and nights are becoming lighter your child might want to spend more time independently with their friends. This can be a worrying time for you as parents ensuring they are kept safe. We would always advise that you know where



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your child is going and with whom. Have a set time by which they will arrive home. You should also have an easy way of contacting them. In school we do a lot of work around staying safe and the dangers of peer pressure and external influences. We encourage you as parents to talk to your child and reinforce these messages and in this way, we will be working together to equip them with the right tools to make informed decisions.

## Police

One of the ways we seek to help keep our students safe outside of school hours is by working closely with external agencies including the local police and in our recent meetings with them we have talked about how they can help in our local area. They maintain a Community Police Support Officer presence and they have advised us that they will be present locally over the coming Bank Holiday weekend and be patrolling the local area including Eyes Meadow starting on Friday.

## Parking

The neighbourhood around our school is residential. The roads around school, and particularly Wirksworth Road and Park Road can be very congested at the start and end of the school day. While some parents have little option but to drive children to school we would ask that you only do so if there is no acceptable alternative. To protect our students as they make their way to and from school it will help us greatly if you park a little way away from school at pick up and drop off times and allow to children to walk from there. Information on our school bus services is included from the link below.

[Getting to School \(ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk\)](http://ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)

We welcome your feedback on any issues that are worrying you and if there is anything you would like to talk to us about with regard to how to keep your child safe when they are not in school please get in touch with Mrs Ourabi by sending an email to [courabi@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:courabi@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

James McNamara

Head Teacher