

Safeguarding – Phone Lockers

The negative effects of smartphones on young people's mental, physical and academic well-being are a growing concern and one we wish to do all we can to minimise. As you are aware our school behaviour policy prohibits the use of mobile phones during the school day, yet staff spend a considerable amount of time policing this. We have this policy in place to safeguard our students and protect them from the known dangers which young people are often exposed to via their smartphones such as:

- cyber-bullying
- exposure to possible grooming and harmful online content
- challenges regarding behavioural addiction issues relating to devices/content
- academic distraction and concentration issues
- the development, and triggering, of mental illness.

As a result, to further improve our safeguarding practices at HGSS and enhance all students' safety we are introducing an additional layer of protection in the form of mobile phone lockers. These lockers will remove the disruptions smartphones bring to daily school life, as well as give students an escape from the online world, so they can focus on their studies fully.

Should you need to contact your child in the event of an emergency this can be done so via the school's reception team.